パンプキン・シザーズ

帝国陸軍情報部第3課

KCDX2354

パンプキン・シザーズ 8

帝国陸軍情報部第3課

岩永亮太郎

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Pumpkin Scissors

Mjentaron Iwanaga

3年間、同じ所をぐるぐる
回るしかなかったんだ――

国境の海沿いの町ルーデル。ここは善徳の士アーヴィー子爵の治める領地であり、その仁政と地勢条件――温暖帯であるがために共和国の侵攻計画をはたり難い――とによって、人々は平穏な日々を送っていた。

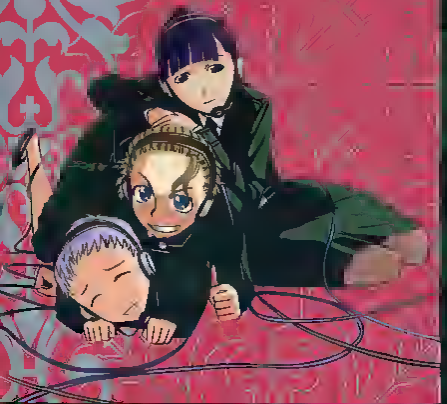
だが、宣戦を布いた共和国軍の来襲と占領、子爵の戦死と衛兵隊の潰滅、帝国軍による反攻と駐留という一連の事態を通して、住民の暮らしは一変した。抗いえぬ“支配”の軛……。停戦後二月が過ぎ、軍が退去した現在も、それは子爵の嗣子アーヴィー隊長率いる国境警備隊によって、街に重くのしかかっている。そしてその裏には、巧妙なシステムが存在していた。極悪の環状線を走る装甲列車の轟音、“決まり”を免れるための規則。――ベンチの刻印を回転木馬が一千回ぴたりと踏みを乗せて廻り続ける……

息絶えるまで
踊り続けるしかない
輪舞(ロンド)――

岩永亮太郎

重量級ドラマ 最新第8巻 円環の内を廻る街「カルッセル編」中編!

I'm thinking of something really special right now!



パンプキン・シザーズ

帝国陸軍情報部第3課

RYOUTAROU IWANAGA

岩永亮太郎

8

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パンプキン・シザーズ

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3年間、同じ所をぐるぐる回るしかなかったんだ――

国境の[illegible]こは、カブ[illegible]アルヴィー子爵の治める領地であり、その[illegible]地[illegible]であるかのように[illegible]和国の侵攻[illegible]なり難[illegible]て、カ[illegible]平穏[illegible]を送っていた。

だが、意表を突いた[illegible]和国軍の来寇と占領、子爵の娘カノン[illegible]兵隊の活躍、帝国軍による反攻と[illegible]という一連の事態を通して、住民の暮らし[illegible]一変した。抗いえぬ「支配」の[illegible]……。停戦後3年が過ぎ、[illegible]が退去[illegible]と現在、それは[illegible]の[illegible]ーヴィー隊長[illegible]いる[illegible]備[illegible]って、[illegible]に[illegible]しかな[illegible]いる。そして[illegible]様には[illegible]歪んだ[illegible]が存在していた。

極悪の[illegible]執[illegible]を走る装甲列車の轟音――[illegible]ルール[illegible]を[illegible]れたものの規則[illegible]キの[illegible]ダル[illegible]ルカ[illegible]チ[illegible]の[illegible]を[illegible]動する。

「カッカッカ！　8[illegible]目[illegible]と
出番かと思いきや、目元[illegible]ず[illegible]回[illegible]
とは、なんともつれない[illegible]

[illegible]はともかく、マユは[illegible]

「おうおう！　言いよるわ！[illegible]
我が妹といい、実に冷たい[illegible]
その口を、さてどうやって[illegible]ろうか
と思案するのがここ最近の[illegible]
ひとつ試してみるか？」

「悪趣味な。
次巻はいよいよカルッセル[illegible]
「ＶＳ装甲列車」。
お見逃しのございませ[illegible]

「カカッ！　では2課も行[illegible]か
1課と3課の相手をせねば[illegible]

「了解しました。ライ[illegible]ル[illegible]伝」

●●

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帝国陸軍情報部第3課

パンプキン・シザーズ

岩永亮太郎
Ryoutarou Iwanaga

Chapter 25: Revolving City (3) ——— 3
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Chapter 27: Instant Karussell (Impromptu World) ——— 77
Chapter 28: Confession (Melting Ice) ——— 125
Chapter 29: FOOLISH ARMY (Imperial Army) ——— 185

此の物語

戦争があった。永きにわたるフロスト共和国との戦争は、帝国の各地に深い傷跡を残した。『薄氷の条約』[illegible]た停戦から3[illegible]飢餓、疫病、兵隊の野盗化[illegible]それは"戦災"という名の、もう一つの戦争[illegible]。
それを憂慮した帝[illegible]部[illegible]報部内に第3[illegible]
[illegible]の[illegible]
する言い訳でしかない彼ら。だが、社会を覆う欺瞞と腐敗のブ厚い皮を、切り裂き暴くことを忠実に実践する彼らは、自らを『パンプキン・シザーズ』と呼ぶ。

【陸情1課】

コネリー少佐：1課長。国家公安に心血を注ぐ、冷徹な男。

【陸情2課】

ブランドン中尉：カルッセル駐留諜報員。対敵監視任務中。

ヴィッター少尉：通称『冷淡（コールド）なヴィッター』。エリート諜報員。

フランシア伍長：ブランドン中尉補佐。何者かに殺害される。

【兵器局技術開発部】

ウェブナー技術中尉：開発班主任。3課に肩入れ気味の姐御（アネゴ）。

【陸情3課】パンプキン・シザーズ

【実働小隊】

アリス少尉：気高く、ひたむきな小隊長。戦災復興に邁進。

オーランド伍長：満身に戦傷を負う巨漢。3課に希望を託す。

オレルド准尉：斜に構えた女たらしだが、物のわかる好漢。

マーチス准尉：思慮深く、制止役の多い苦労人。芯は強い。

ハンクス大尉：3課長。閑職に回された親父風だが、切れ者。

ステッキン曹長：本部の事務要員。軍人には見えない女の子。

マーキュリー号：上等伝令兵待遇の軍用犬。オス。精力絶倫。

街の酒場のウェイトレス。国境警備隊の暴虐を堪え忍ぶ。

ティラミス：フランシア伍長に引き取られた元伝令犬被験体。

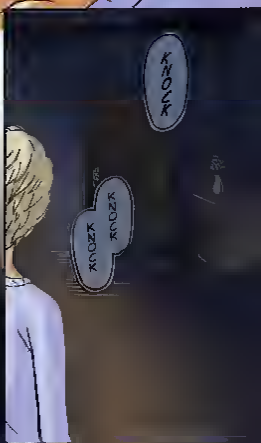
アーヴィー：カルッセル独立国境警備隊の隊長。旧領主の子。

マイル：共和国との国境に近い街・カルッセルの区長。

(PIP)
(PIP)
IT'S RAINING . . .

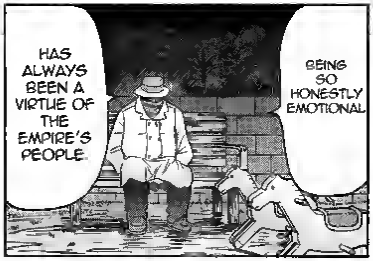
KNOCK
KNOCK
ガラッ

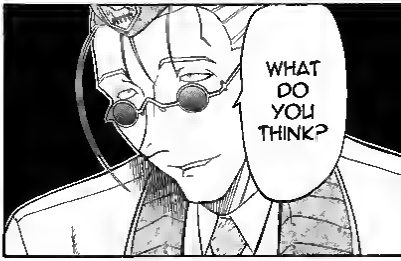
COME IN...
THE DOOR'S OPEN.


KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

IN THE SAME YEAR I WAS BORN,
A CIRCUS CAME TO THIS TOWN.
THEY TRAVELLED ALL OVER THE CONTINENT USING THE RAILROADS, ENTERTAINING PEOPLE ALONG THE WAY
THEY WERE ABLE TO BRING JOY TO THE PEOPLE IN A BORING TOWN LIKE OURS
AS A TRIBUTE TO THOSE ENTER-TAINERS, MY FATHER, THE PREVIOUS GOVERNER,
BUILT THIS PARK.

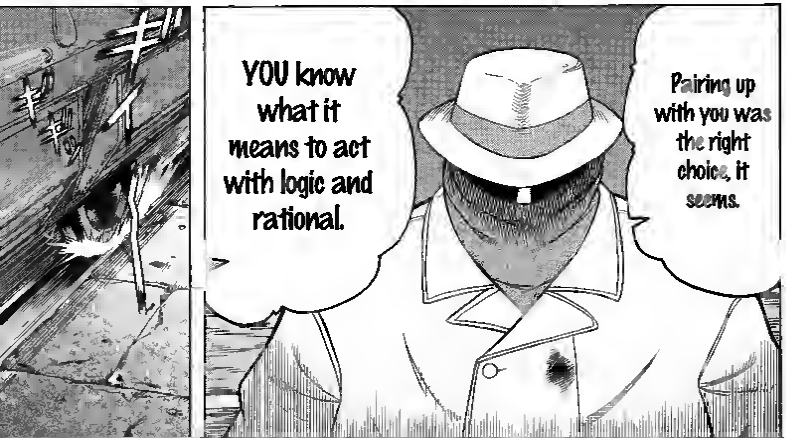
TN: Karussell means carousel in German.





AH HA HA HA HA!
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT!

HE DIED SO QUICKLY
BECAUSE HE WAS ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER THE CITIZENS' WELL-BEING!

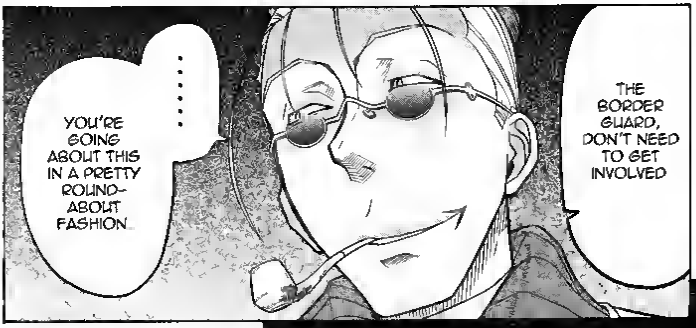

Pairing up with you was the right choice, it seems.
YOU know what it means to act with logic and rational.

BACK WHEN THE EMPIRE STA-TIONED TROOPS HERE
I THOUGHT
THAT *THIS*
IS HOW YOU'RE SUP-POSED TO RULE!

I HAVE THE DETERMINATION A RULER NEEDS!
I'M NOT LIKE MY FATHER!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
BUT IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT NOT TO BE IN YOUR ROOM?
WON'T THAT WITTER GUY COME TO CHECK UP ON YOU?
TSK
...
I SHOT A FEW BULLETS IN MY ROOM BEFORE I WENT OUT TO ATTACK HIM.

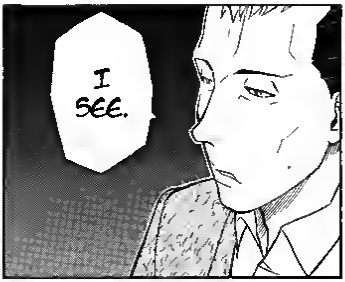
"THEY WENT AFTER LIEUTENANT BRANDON TOO."
"HE MUST HAVE RUN AWAY" IS THE CONCLUSION HE'LL PROBABLY REACH.
WOULD HE REALLY BUY THAT SO EASILY?
.....
THAT MAN
DOESN'T TRUST ANYONE TO BEGIN WITH,
BUT AS LONG AS IT'S WITHIN THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF SECTION 2,
IN THE END, HE WON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT MY STORY.

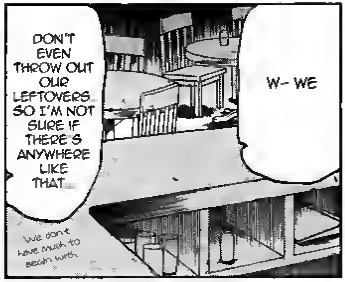
ANYWAY, LEAVE HIM TO ME.
YOU GUYS

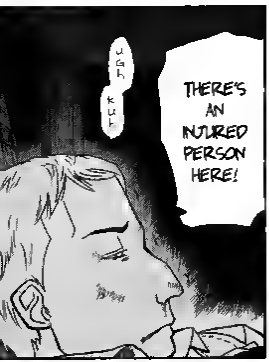

THE BORDER GUARD, DON'T NEED TO GET INVOLVED
.....
YOU'RE GOING ABOUT THIS IN A PRETTY ROUND-ABOUT FASHION.

WHY NOT
JUST HURRY UP AND OFF HIM JUST LIKE YOU DID BEFORE?
.....
I'LL SAY IT ONE MORE TIME:

✝ Chapter 25: Revolving City (3)



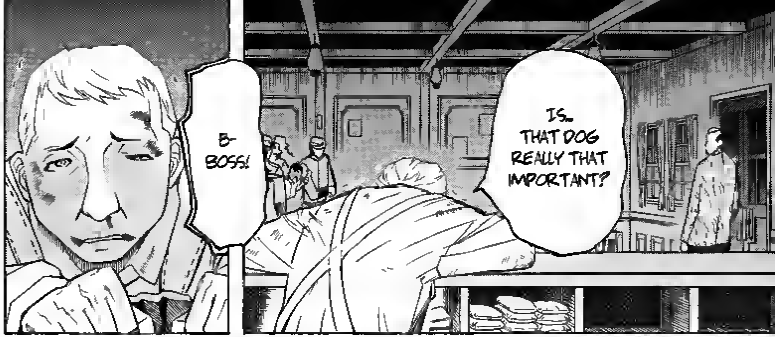




Disclaimer: This is a work of fiction blah blah blah

YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT YOUR EYES.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M A TRAVELLER?
THE EYES OF EVERYONE IN THIS TOWN ARE DEAD.
THEY DON'T RESIST NO MATTER WHAT WE DO TO THEM. THEY'RE TOTALLY AT OUR MERCY!
REALLY?

BUT IT SEEMS TO ME LIKE THE EYES OF THAT GIRL OVER THERE
WHAT AM I EVEN SAYING?!?
ARE FILLED WITH HATRED.
THE RULES SAY NOT TO INVOLVE YOURSELF IN ANYTHING UNRELATED TO THE MISSION!
UNRELATED...
チキ
HOW WOULD ONE WOMAN...
AGAINST THESE MEN...
U- YOU... COUGH COUGH


B-BOSS!
IS... THAT DOG REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

I KNOW A LOT OF PLACES WHERE STRAY DOGS GATHER.
BUT I'LL ONLY TELL YOU IF YOU HELP THAT GIRL ESCAPE!

HEY HEY!
YOU GUYS ARE PRETTY CUTSY TODAY, AREN'T YOU!
C'MON...
.....!?

THIS IS NO LONGER UNRELATED
SINCE IT'S TO OBTAIN INFORMATION.
!

KUH
AH
GYA!

D-
DO
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU FOR DOING THIS TO US?!
IN THAT CASE,
I SIMPLY CAN'T LET YOU RETURN ALIVE.
チャキ

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
SO MUCH SO THAT NOWADAYS EVEN TRAVELLERS NEED THINGS LIKE THIS.
IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY DANGEROUS AROUND HERE LATELY
PLEASE DON'T.
INSIDE MY STORE.
I DON'T WANT ANY MORE GUNS TO BE SHOT

I'LL LET YOU RUN AWAY WITH YOUR TAIL TUCKED BETWEEN YOUR LEGS.
GO.
ALRIGHT. I DON'T REALLY CARE EITHER WAY.
VANISH.
THEN I GUESS WE'LL JUST MAKE YOUR PRECIOUS STORE

I SUPPOSE THE POLICE WOULD BE USELESS HERE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
EVERYONE IN THIS CITY, THE MAYOR INCLUDED,
IS FORCED TO FOLLOW THEIR ORDERS.
WHAT'S THIS UNCOMFORTABLE FEELING?
IT'S ALMOST AS IF THEY'RE READING OFF A SCRIPT.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I MADE YOU LET THEM GO EVEN THOUGH YOU SAVED US.

I DON'T THINK THEY'RE LYING, BUT...
I DON'T REALLY CARE.
THE ONES THEY'RE GOING TO GET REVENGE ON IS GOING TO BE YOU AND YOUR STORE.
HM?
.....
THAT BAG...
AH... WHAT DO I DO...
I NEED TO GET THIS TO THE SECTION 3 GUYS

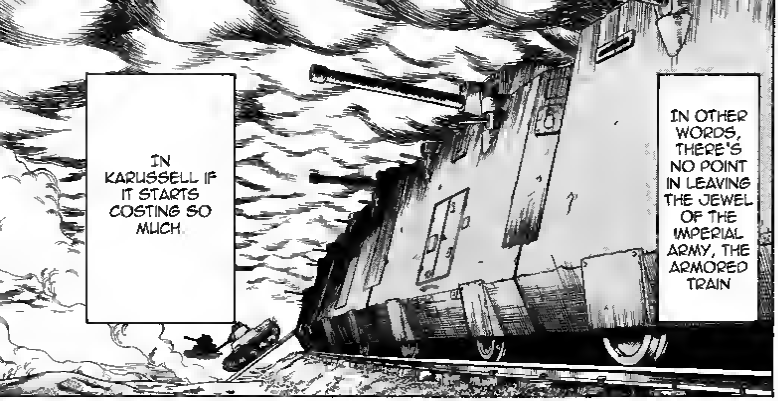
HMMM...
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE REALLY STANDING OUT.
ACHOO
SECTION3rd
CAPTAIN HUNKS
AS EXPECTED OF THE "PARTY UNIT".
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO CHOOSE THIS EXACT MOMENT TO SNEEZE?
I THINK THIS EVERY TIME IT HAPPENS, BUT.
It's not normal
I wonder if I caught a cold
SNIFFLE...

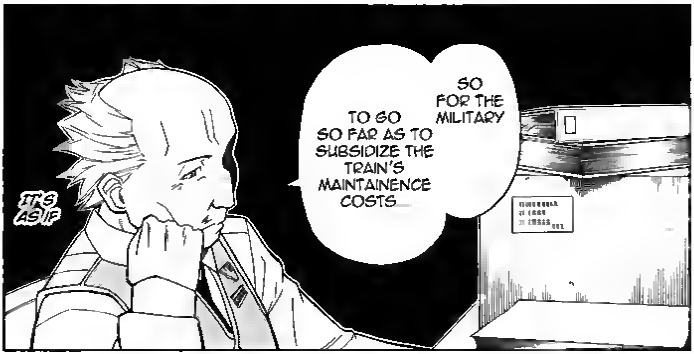
HEEEYYYY! ARE YOU TRYING TO PUT ME IN AN EVEN MORE SADISTIC MOOD?!
O- OH NO, COFFEE GOT ON THE PAPERWORK!!
SO,
ANYTHING TO REPORT?
RUFRUBRUB
NOTHING REALLY, ASIDE FROM THE ARMORED TRAIN.
YAWN...
25 YEARS AGO THE PREVIOUS GOVERNOR, AT THE TIME PUT IN AN APPLICATION TO CHANGE THE TOWN'S NAME TO KARUSSELL
11 YEARS AGO THE GOVERNOR DIED AT THE SAME TIME TROOPS BEGAN TO BE STATIONED THERE. CONTROL OF THE CITY WAS HANDED OVER TO THE MILITARY, AFTER WHICH IT WAS DIRECTLY GOVERNED BY THE EMPIRE.

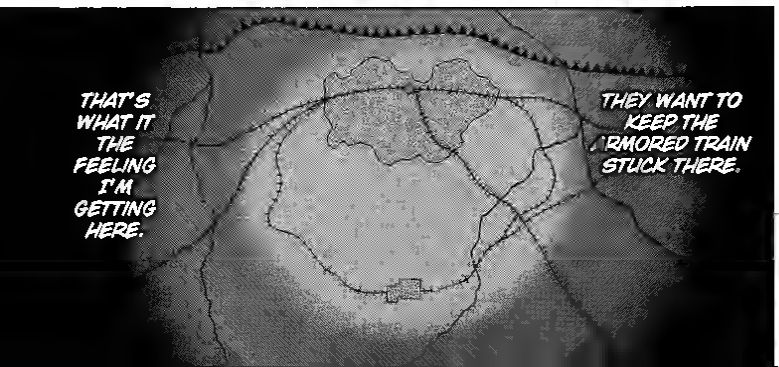
SO IT WENT FROM BEING UNDER CONTROL OF THE NOBLES TO UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE EMPIRE?
SO DID CONTROL RETURN TO THE NOBLES AFTER THE ARMY PULLED OUT?
NO, IT SEEMS THAT THE PREVIOUS GOVERNOR'S SON DISOWNED HIS TITLE
ALL HE INHERITED WAS THE ARMORED TRAIN
THE ARMY GAVE IT TO THE CIVILIANS?
THAT ARMORED TRAIN?
It's pretty generous.
NO WAY.
"IT'S NEXT TO THE BORDER SO WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO KEEP TABS ON THE REPUBLIC FROM HERE."
BUT ACCORDING TO THE TREATY "NO TROOPS CAN BE STATIONED NEAR THE BORDER".
REPUBLIC
BORDER AREA
EMPIRE
SO BASICALLY, THEY'RE "LOANING" IT OUT TO THE CIVILIAN BORDER PATROL TO ACT AS A REPLACEMENT FOR THE ARMY.

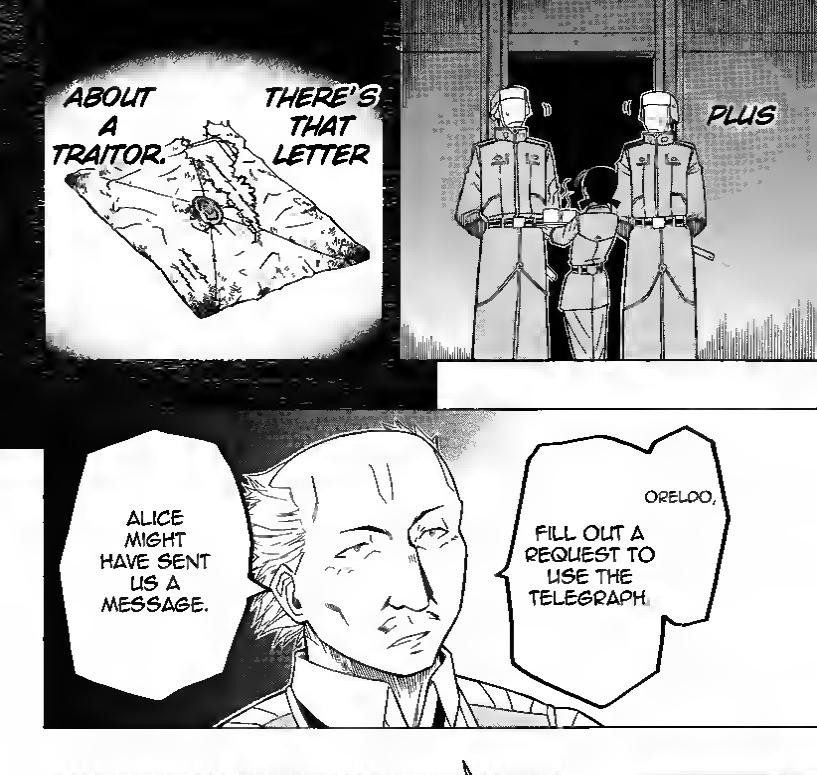
IF THERE'S AN EMER-GENCY
THE TRAIN GOES BACK INTO THE MILITARY'S POSESS-ION-
IT'S NOT A LOAN.
IT'S AN ACTUAL TRANSFER
It's written right here.
N-NO WAY! THAT ARMORED TRAIN?! THE TREASURE OF THE IMPERIAL ARMY?!
THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS
BUT THEN
DOES THE ARMY
PAY ITS MAINTANENCE COSTS FOR IT EVERY MONTH?
WHY

IT'S JUST LIKE A MAN HAVING TO PAY HIS WIFE EACH MONTH AFTER GETTING DIVORCED
IT'S PRETTY STRANGE, ESPECIALLY WITH HOW UPTIGHT THE MILITARY IS WHEN IT COMES TO MONEY
I SAID THIS IN THE BEGINNING TOO
THE SOIL THERE'S BAD, SO STARTING AN INVASION FROM THAT AREA WOULD BE DIFFICULT
THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT THINK THAT EVEN IF THE WAR STARTED AGAIN, THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO EVEN LAUNCH AN ASSAULT FROM THERE


IN KARUSSELL IF IT STARTS COSTING SO MUCH
IN OTHER WORDS, THERE'S NO POINT IN LEAVING THE JEWEL OF THE IMPERIAL ARMY, THE ARMORED TRAIN


IT'S AS IF
TO GO SO FAR AS TO SUBSIDIZE THE TRAIN'S MAINTAINENCE COSTS
SO FOR THE MILITARY


THAT'S WHAT IT THE FEELING I'M GETTING HERE.
THEY WANT TO KEEP THE ARMORED TRAIN STUCK THERE.

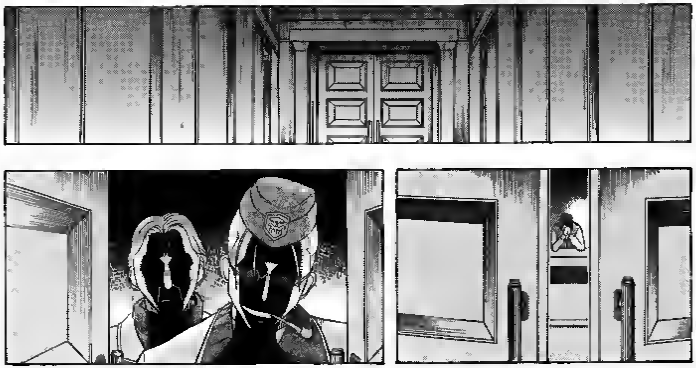

ABOUT A TRAITOR.
THERE'S THAT LETTER
PLUS
ALICE MIGHT HAVE SENT US A MESSAGE.
ORELDO, FILL OUT A REQUEST TO USE THE TELEGRAPH.

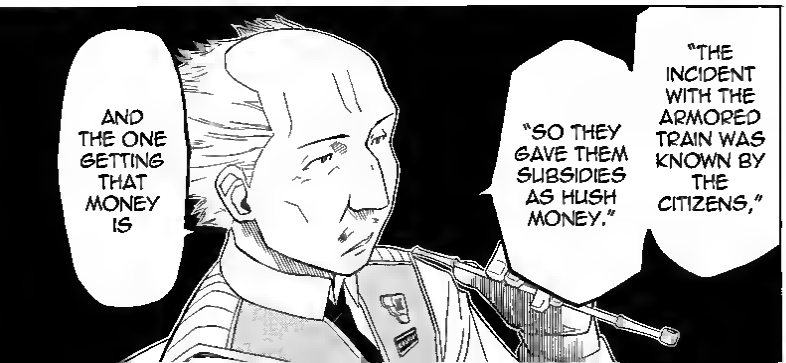
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T TAKEN A BREAK YET
YAWN
YOU GET SOME SLEEP, MARCHS.
ONCE IT'S MORNING, WE MAY HAVE TO SEND THEM A MESSAGE TOO.

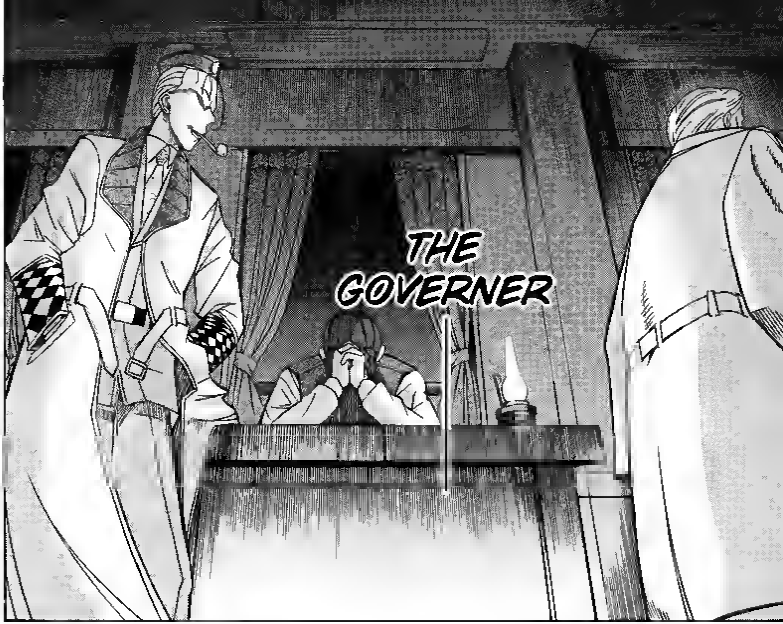
I HOPE I DON'T SAY ANYTHING STUPID WHILE I'M SLEEPING
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T TELL PEOPLE ABOUT HOW YOU LOOK WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING UNNECESSARILY! BUT ONLY AS LONG AS IT'S UNNECESSARY!
IT'S MY DUTY TO REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.
GOING TO WATCH ME WHILE I SLEEP TOO?
EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST TEMPORARY,
DUTY TO REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL HUH?
HM?
.....
IF IT WAS THE MILITARY THAT KNEW THAT, THEY'D PROBABLY TRY AND KEEP IT QUIET.
WHAT IF THE ARMORED TRAIN WAS INVOLVED IN SOMETHING PROBLEMATIC?

SOLDIERS CAN ALWAYS SAY IT'S THEIR DUTY TO REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL ABOUT THINGS,
SO THEY CAN AVOID GIVING A PROPER EXPLANATION FOR THINGS, AND MAKE OUT THOSE WHO COMPLAIN TO BE THE BAD GUY.
BUT WHAT IF
THE PEOPLE WHO KNEW WHAT THEY DID WERE THE CIVILIANS?

THE EASIEST WAY TO KEEP THEM QUIET IS WITH MONEY.
AND SINCE THE GAG ORDER IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT,
SINCE THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE CONFI-DENTIAL.




AND THE ONE GETTING THAT MONEY IS
"SO THEY GAVE THEM SUBSIDIES AS HUSH MONEY."
"THE INCIDENT WITH THE ARMORED TRAIN WAS KNOWN BY THE CITIZENS,"

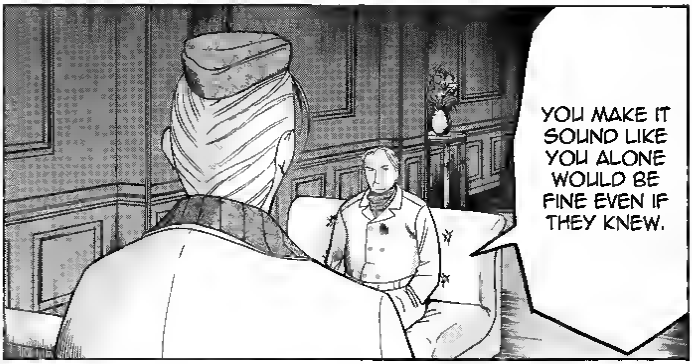

THE GOVERNER

...I
WAS FINE JUST AS LONG AS I GOT THE MONEY,
BUT I COULDN'T HIDE THE FACT THAT THE CITY BEGAN TO DECLINE AFTER THE ARMY LEFT!

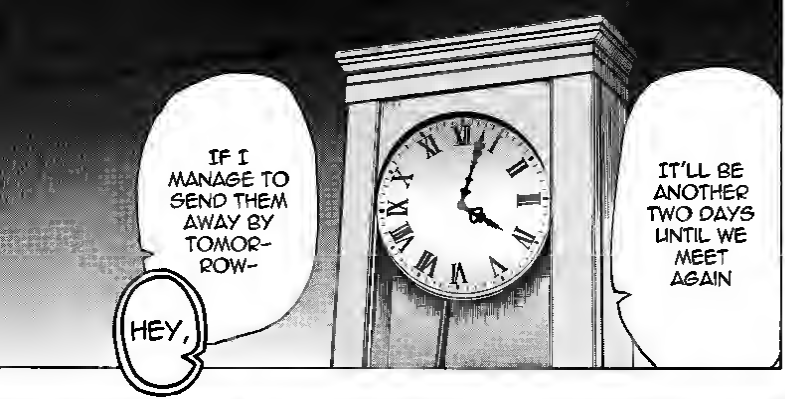
THAT'S WHY I GOT STUCK WITH THIS WORTHLESS JOB-
AND THAT'S BECAUSE I LET YOU GUYS RUN AROUND WITH THAT ARMORED TRAIN EVERY DAY!
.....

IT'D BE FINE EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T THE MAYOR, RIGHT?
BOTHTHE ARMORED TRAIN, AND THIS CITY,
ARE MINE.
AND YOU WERE THE ONE WHO GAVE THEM TO ME.
YOU SHOULD FEEL A BIT MORE HONORED

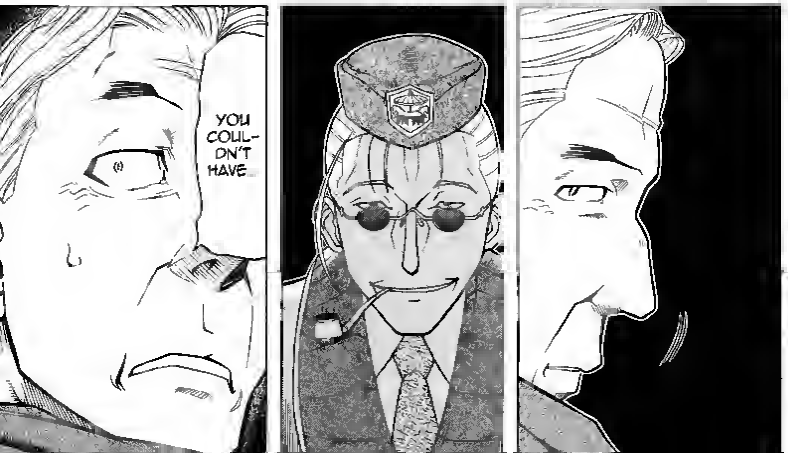
DON'T WORRY, MAYOR.
THE MILITARY COMING HERE WAS REALLY JUST A MISTAKE.
THEY DON'T KNOW YOUR SECRET.
THEY DIDN'T COME HERE TO KILL YOU.
EVEN IF THEY WANTED TO,
THERE'S A REASON WHY THEY CAN'T
.....
"YOUR", HUH?


YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE YOU ALONE WOULD BE FINE EVEN IF THEY KNEW.

SURE YOU'RE NOT STEALING A MARCH ON US?
ANY-WAY,
LEAVE THE MILITARY TO ME.
AND MAYOR,
DON'T EVEN *THINK* ABOUT RATTING US OUT, YOU HEAR?


IT'LL BE ANOTHER TWO DAYS UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN
IF I MANAGE TO SEND THEM AWAY BY TOMOR-ROW-
HEY,

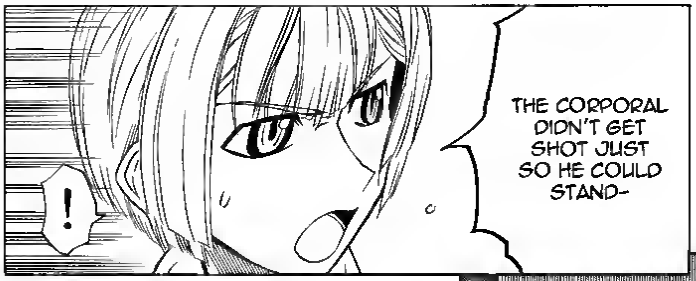
YOU SAID "DON'T WORRY",
BUT AREN'T *YOU* THE MOST WORRIED OUT OF ALL OF US?


YOU COUL-DN'T HAVE

I HAPPENED TO SEE SOME SOLDIERS THIS EVENING.
JUST BY... CHANCE.
SO YOU
REALLY WERE SHOT?

LIEU-TENANT WITTER!
.....
I DIDN'T EXPECT MUCH FROM YOU GUYS,
BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THE REASON WHY I WAS GOING AROUND IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES?
ARMY?!
YOU ?!
ZII
LIEU-TENANT MALVIN.
Sorry.
YOU STILL HAVE A FEVER, YOU KNOW!
YOU WENT OUT EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVEN'T RECOV-ERED?

I KNOW I TOLD YOU TWO TO STAND OUT, BUT THIS IS OVERDOING IT.
WITH THIS, EVEN SECTION 2'S MOVEMENTS WILL BE HINDERED.


THE CORPORAL DIDN'T GET SHOT JUST SO HE COULD STAND-
!

HRN...
HE'S INJURED ...
SORRY I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT AWAY THOUGH THERE MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH

AH NO, I'M-
MORE IMPORT-ANTLY, THE INFORMATION YOU PROMISED ME.
.....
OF COURSE
LET ME JUST-

IS THIS A MAP OF THE CITY?
YEAH
WHEN THEY WERE LAYING DOWN THE RAILROAD TRACKS,
IT BECAME NECES-SARY TO MAKE ONE
T- THESE TRACKS ...
SI

ARE WHERE STRAY DOGS GATHER?
NEAR THE PLACES WHERE I MARKED ON THE MAP.
THERE'S A LOT OF LEFTOVERS.
IN PLACES WHERE THOSE GUYS LIKE TO GATHER.
DO YOU REMEMBER THE AGREEMENT WE HAD BEFORE WHERE I WOULD ACT AS YOUR SUPERIOR?
LIEU-TENANT MALVIN,
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A DOG?

FROM HERE ON OUT, YOU ARE NOT TO CONDUCT ANY MILITARY OPERATIONS WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.
AS YOUR SUPERIOR OFFICER, I'M GIVING YOU AN ORDER
STOP JOKING AROUND! THE CORPORAL WAS SHOT!
IF YOU STAND OUT TOO MUCH IT'LL BE A PROBLEM
I OBTAINED A ROOM IN THIS HOTEL WHILE POSING AS A TOURIST.
WE NEED TO CONTACT HEAD-QUAR-TERS-

THERE SHOULD BE MEDICAL SUPPLIES INSIDE THE SUITCASE
INSIDE ARE MY BAGS.
THANK YOU.
.....
SAVING THE WOUNDED, IF POSSIBLE, IS PART OF THE RULES.
THERE'S NO NEED.

YOU DID SOMETHING UNNECESSARY.
NOW I HAVE NO CHOICE
BUT TO KILL THEM.
#25／END

Interval
JEEZ.
FELL RIGHT ASLEEP, HUH.
You didn't even say anything
WELL I- IT LOOKS LIKE THE PARTY UNIT SECTION 3 DOES WORK HARD IN IT'S OWN WAY
DON'T STAY OUT TOO LATE, KITTY.
MOAN
GOT IT, TRICK-STER KITTY?
MOANMOAN
MY PARADISE HELL GUN IS GOING NYAN NYAN
IT'S TOO EARLY, NYAN.
MOAN

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY, THEN LIEUTENANT MARCHS WILL PRETEND HE DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING
WHAT A GEN-TLE-MANLY ATTI-TUDE!
MEOW
IS.
Is he referring to himself in third person?
BUT THE FRUIT WON'T STAY RAW FOREVER
THE CAT WILL EVENTU-ALLY TURN INTO A LEOPARD
I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE!
It won't just become a larger cat
Lieutenant?
EEK.
OK BABY~
MEOW
It's.....
SHOW TIME
GOOD MORNING! WARRANT OFFICER MARCHS-DONO!
HUH?
UM, YEAH, GOOD MORNING?
NEXT

KUUDERE

CREDITS

TL	NINGEN
TLC	AYASE
TYPESETTER	CRUX
CLEANER	KAILEIGH BLUE

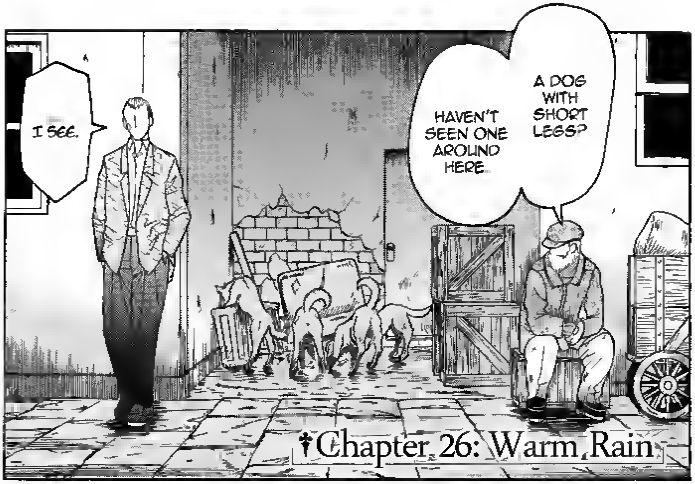
KUUDERE-SCANS!

COME VISIT US AT KUUDERE.COM

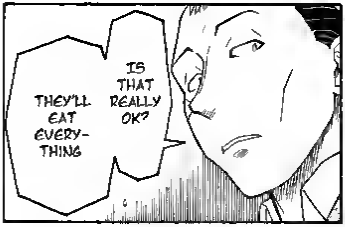
ARF!
ARF!
ARF!

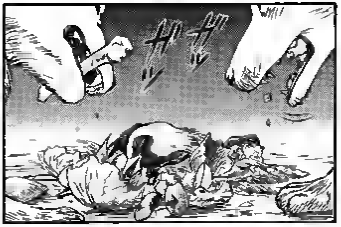
.....

IT'D BE WISE TO WAIT YOUR TURN



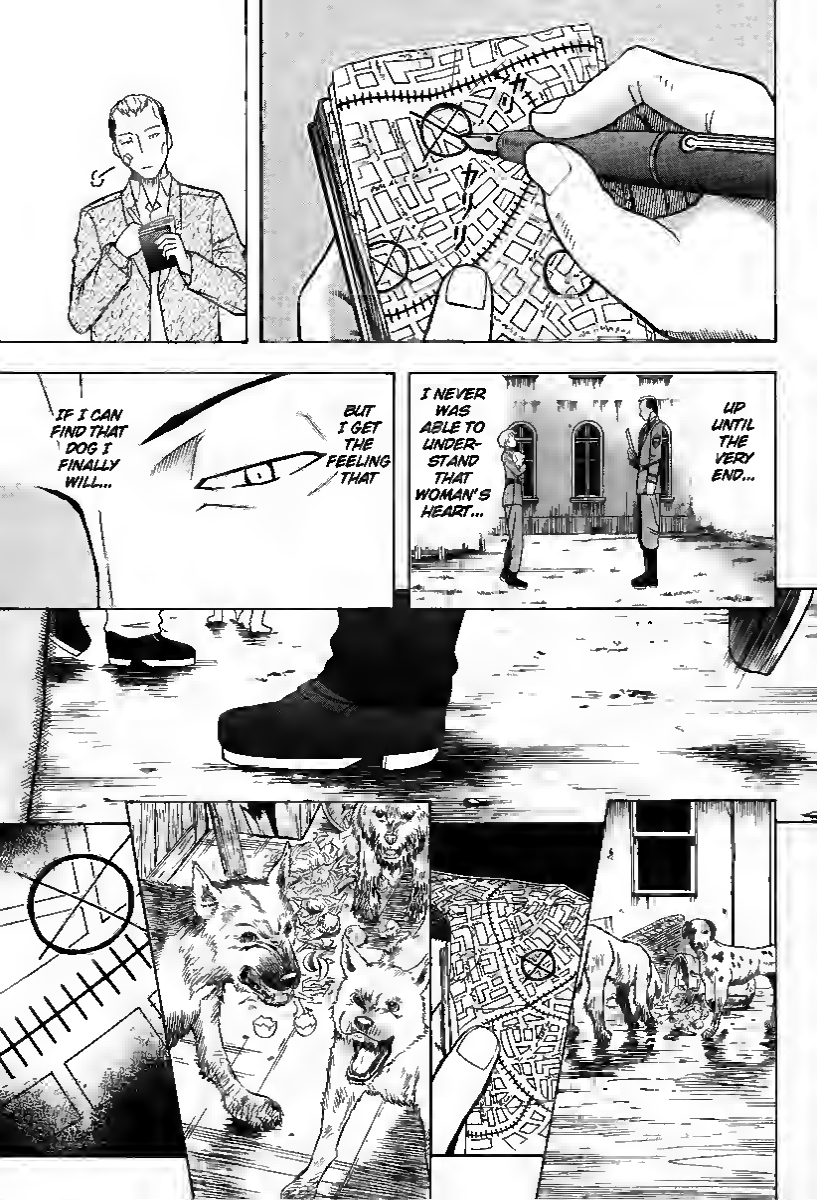
†Chapter 26: Warm Rain





I THOUGHT A STRAY DOG WOULD EAT ANY-THING
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S THE CASE ELSEWHERE,
BUT THE DOGS HERE DON'T.
IT'S A RULE THEY NEED TO FOLLOW IF THEY WANT TO SURVIVE
RATHER THAN BY REASON,
IT'S SOME-THING THEY KNOW INSTINC-TIVELY.

HMM, NOW WHAT IS IT THAT I MEANT BY THAT? ...FUFUFU.
YOU MEAN WHEN I SAID "I'M RELIEVED BECAUSE YOU'RE SO FUSSY ABOUT THE RULES"?
IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH THEM.
THAT'S THE ARMORED CAR THAT CORPORAL OLAND WAS TALKING ABOUT.
THAT OVER THERE'S
ALSO A PART OF THE RULES NOW
OH, YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?


IF I CAN FIND THAT DOG I FINALLY WILL...
BUT I GET THE FEELING THAT
I NEVER WAS ABLE TO UNDER-STAND THAT WOMAN'S HEART...
UP UNTIL THE VERY END...

ポツ
ポツ
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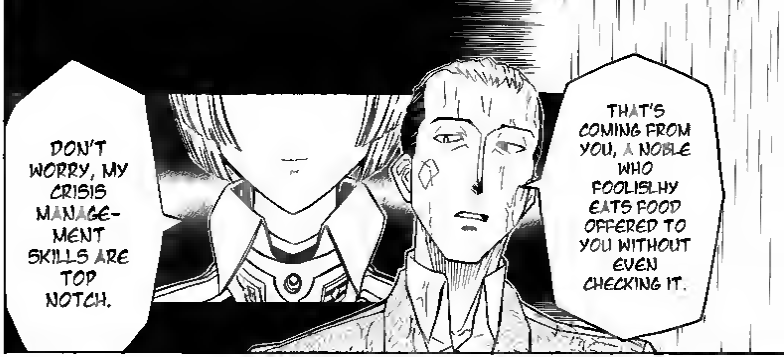
AS EX-PECT-ED...
IT WON'T BE EASY TO FIND HIM.
There you are, dear!
TODAY'S A WARM DAY!
IT'S RAINING, NOT SNOWING.
Don't twirl it like that. What are you, a little kid?
I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO PICK ME UP, BUT WHERE'S MY UMBRELLA?

H- HEY!
WHEN I LEFT EARLIER, THE NEIGHBORS WERE ALL TELLING ME
She's...
HERE YOU GO
LET'S SWITCH!
That we make a really cute couple, Mr. Witter!
She's ...

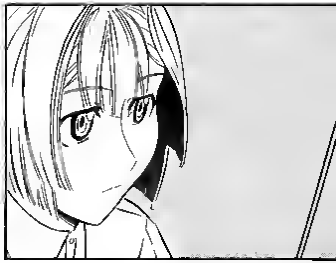
She's dead.

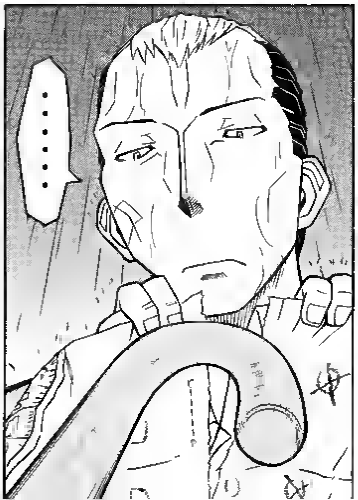
She's ...

MALVIN ...?
LIEU-TEN-ANT...
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO TAKE ANY MILITARY ACTION
..
I'M ACTING AS A CIVILIAN RIGHT NOW I'M NOT EVEN WEARING MY UNIFORM.
You can borrow it.
IF YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO DO ANYTHING, YOU SHOULD HAVE ORDERED ME TO STAND BY
GUARD?
I'LL GUARD YOU!
THERE'S A LOT OF THOSE BORDER GUARDS WANDERING AROUND HERE, RIGHT?


DON'T WORRY, MY CRISIS MANAGE-MENT SKILLS ARE TOP NOTCH.
THAT'S COMING FROM YOU, A NOBLE WHO FOOLISHLY EATS FOOD OFFERED TO YOU WITHOUT EVEN CHECKING IT.

WELL, IF YOU DON'T WANT ME AS YOUR BODY-GUARD...
.....!
FOR A WHILE NOW YOU'VE BEEN A MUCH MORE PLEASANT PERSON THAN YOU WERE EARLIER




.....

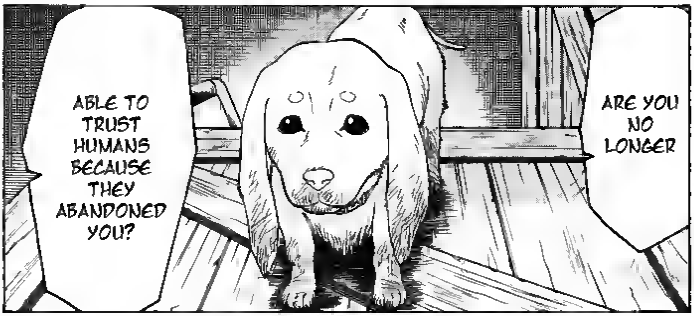
HAVING ANOTHER PAIR OF HANDS HELPING OUT WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT RIGHT?
MAKE THE RATIONAL DECISION MY SUPERIOR OFFICER!

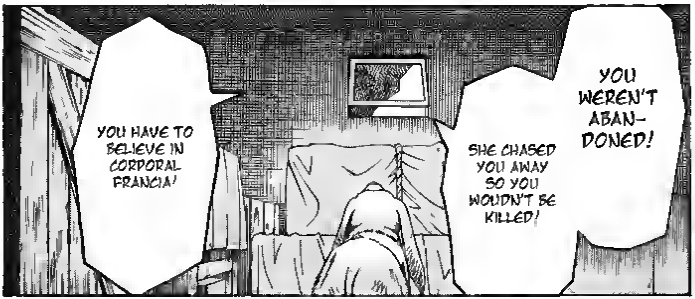
HE'S GOT LIGHT BROWN FUR!
A DOG WITH SHORT LEGS... HIS NAME IS TIRAMISU- HEY WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT MY HEAD?!
I DIDN'T FIND HIM
NEITHER DID I
HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE OUT RUMMAGING THROUGH DUMPSTERS IN THIS RAIN.

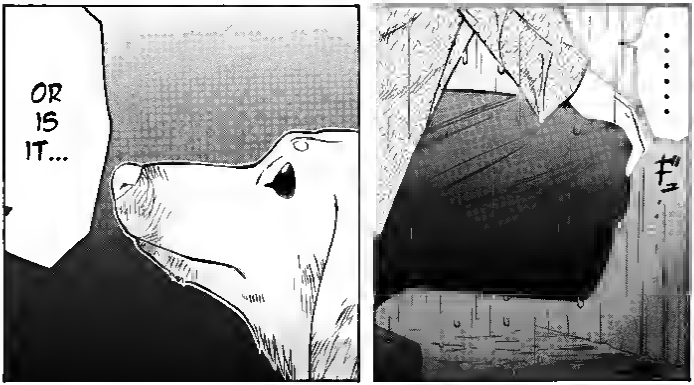
OKAY!
SO, WHAT'S NEXT~
TIRAMISU!

DAMN! HE'S FAST!
THERE HE IS!
HE MANAGED TO GET THROUGH SUCH A SMALL HOLE?!
!
AN UNDER-GROUND WAREHOUSE, HUH...
HE WAS ORIGINALLY A MESSENGER DOG WHO WORKED IN SUCH CRAMPED PLACES.

...?
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HIM WHILE YOU KEEP WATCH OVER-
THE OWNER OF THIS WARE-HOUSE MIGHT LIVE NEARBY
TIRA-MISU...
WHAT ARE YOU SO SCARED OF...?


ARE YOU NO LONGER
ABLE TO TRUST HUMANS BECAUSE THEY ABANDONED YOU?


YOU WEREN'T ABAN-DONED!
SHE CHASED YOU AWAY SO YOU WOULDN'T BE KILLED!
YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE IN CORPORAL FRANCIA!


OR IS IT...
.....
ﾓﾌﾝ

YOU CAN'T TRUST PEOPLE
IS THE REASON
SAW SOMETHING HORRIBLE?
BECAUSE YOU

ハハアアア
I SEE... YOU-
YOU WERE ABANDONED ONCE BEFORE TOO
HOW DID CORPORAL FRANCIA OPEN UP YOUR HEART BACK THEN?
FOR "COLD WITTER"
TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

ARE YOU LAUGHING AT ME RIGHT NOW, CORPORAL FRANCIA?
ARF!
ARF!
ARF!
ARF!
ARF!
ARF!
ARF!
ARF!
ARF!
ARF!
WHAT?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO LAUGH, THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS HELP ME OUT.
LIEU-TENANT WITTER.

"COLD WITTER".
I RESPECT YOU,
ポツ ポツ

CORPORAL FRANCIA!
I MANAGED TO GET THROUGH TO HIM...
#26／END

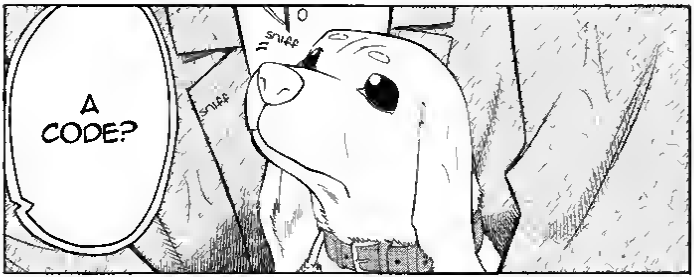
KUUDERE

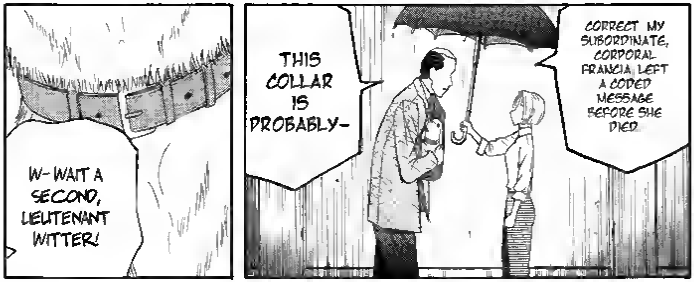
CREDITS

TL	NINGEN
TLC	AYASE
TYPESETTER	CRUX
CLEANER	KAILEIGH BLUE

KUUDERE-SCANS!

COME VISIT US AT KUUDERE.COM

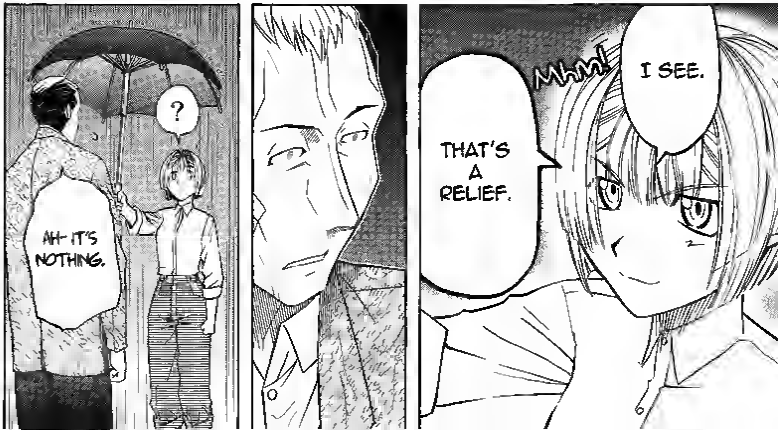

A CODE?
SNIFF
SNIFF

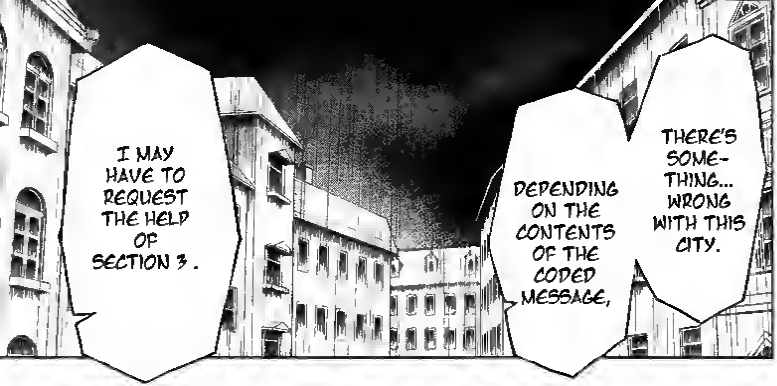

W- WAIT A SECOND, LIEUTENANT WITTER!
THIS COLLAR IS PROBABLY-
CORRECT. MY SUBORDINATE, CORPORAL FRANCIA, LEFT A CODED MESSAGE BEFORE SHE DIED.

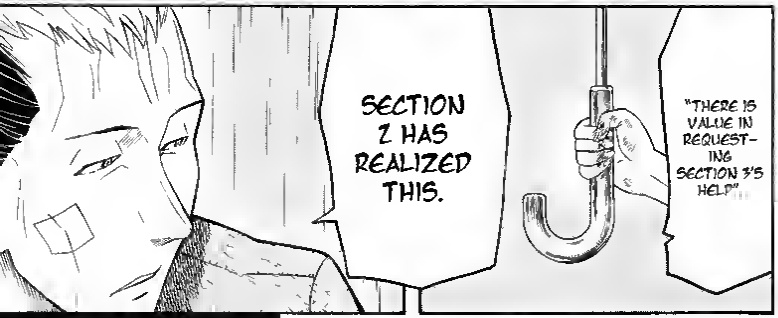
.....
IS IT ALRIGHT FOR YOU TO TELL ME THIS?
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS, HAVE YOU?

(Instant Karussel)

† Chapter 27: Impromptu World




I MAY HAVE TO REQUEST THE HELP OF SECTION 3.
DEPENDING ON THE CONTENTS OF THE CODED MESSAGE,
THERE'S SOME-THING... WRONG WITH THIS CITY.

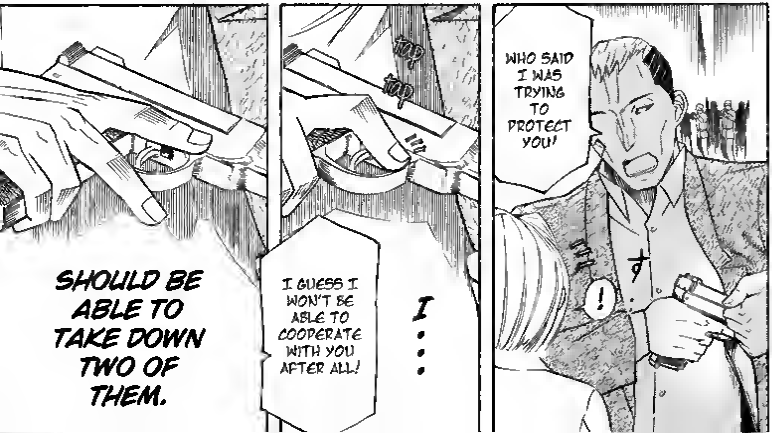

SECTION 2 HAS REALIZED THIS.
"THERE IS VALUE IN REQUEST-ING SECTION 3'S HELP"

FOUND YOU~
WE SHOULD HURRY UP AND SOLVE-
CLICK CLICK
UNDER-STOOD IN THAT CASE,

WE WAITED HALF A DAY IN THE RAIN FOR YOU TO SHOW UP AT THE STATION
BUT TO THINK YOU WERE JUST LOITERING AROUND INSIDE THE CITY_!
IN THAT CASE, THERE'S A PRETTY GOOD CHANCE THAT THEY'LL LET LIEUTENANT MALVIN ESCAPE.
BUT, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ONLY AFTER ME
IT'S THOSE MEN FROM THE BAR!
SORRY FOR ENDING THIS HALFWAY THROUGH OUR WALK,
BUT YOU SHOULD GO NOW
!

WEREN'T WE COOPERATING TO FIND THIS MILITARY DOG FOR YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT, LIEUTENANT WITTER?
WALK?

I'M YOUR GUARD! YOU SHOULDN'T BE THE ONE TRYING TO PROTECT ME!
WHAT?! ARE YOU TELLING ME TO PRETEND TO BE A CIVILIAN AND RUN AWAY BY MYSELF?!
SINCE YOU'RE NOT WEARING YOUR UNIFORM, THEY MIGHT STILL NOT HAVE REALIZED HOW YOU'RE RELATED TO ME!
ARE YOU AN *IDIOT*!?


SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE DOWN TWO OF THEM.
I GUESS I WON'T BE ABLE TO COOPERATE WITH YOU AFTER ALL!
I...
WHO SAID I WAS TRYING TO PROTECT YOU!
!

I CAN'T REALLY EXPECT ANY MORALITY FROM THEM.
EVEN IF THEY THINK SHE'S UNRELATED TO ME, THEY'LL SHOOT HER ANYWAY.
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY...
THEREFORE, THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THIS IS...!
WE WON'T LIVE IF WE TRY TO RUN.
AND SINCE THERE'S NO COVER HERE, WE'D BE SHOT BY AT LEAST THREE GUNS IF WE MADE A BREAK FOR THE STREET CORNER.
IF THEY ONLY HAVE A CHANCE TO FIRE ONCE, WE MIGHT STILL HAVE A CHANCE!
A FULL FRONTAL ASSAULT! IF I CAN TAKE OUT THE FRONT TWO WITH ONE ATTACK, BEFORE THE ONES IN THE BACK HAVE A CHANCE TO AIM, I CAN BRING THE FIGHT INTO CLOSE COMBAT RANGE.

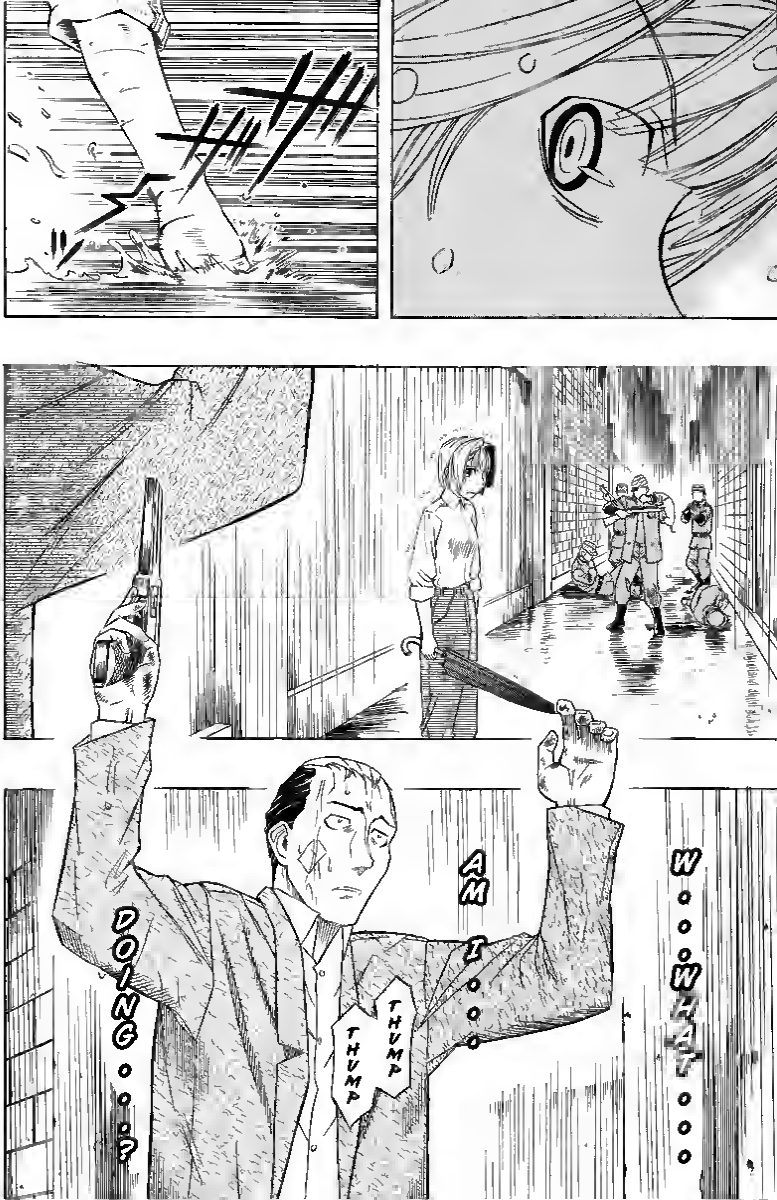
IN THAT CASE, WILL YOU ALLOW ME TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION?
WE BOTH NEED TO SURVIVE.
TAKE TIRAMISU, AND SEND A TELEGRAPH BACK TO HEADQUARTERS.
UNDER-STOOD-
no...

THIS CITY, AND EVEN ITS MAYOR,
ARE ALL UNDER THE BORDER PATROL'S CONTROL...

IF HER LIFE WAS IN DANGER, WHY DIDN'T SHE USE THE REGULAR COMMUNICATION ROUTES, BUT INSTEAD SLOW, REGULAR MAIL?
THE REGULAR ROUTE...
SHE DIDN'T USE THE TELEGRAPH ROOM IN THE GOVER-NOR'S OFFICE... OR MAYBE SHE COULDN'T USE IT?
IN THAT ROOM,
THERE WERE THE FOOTPRINTS OF MULTIPLE MEN.

LET'S GO!
PERFECT.

D-
DAMN DOG!
TIRA-
MISH!!
CLENCH
I'M NOT GONNA MAKE IT IN TIME!
NO!
LIEUTEN-
ANT
MALVIN!!


W...WHAT...
AM I...
THUMP
THUMP
DOING...?

TH-
THEN
IT
HEH
AS LONG AS THE COLLAR IS FINE...
THAT DOG IS NO LONGER IMPORTANT...
SECTION... 2'S...
I'M...
「From today onwards,」
「You will be known as "Cold Witter".」

WHINE
WHINE
LIEUTEN-
ANT
MALVIN...
WHINE
WHINE
NOW
YOU'VE
DONE
IT...

DON'T THINK WE'LL LET YOU OFF
WITH AN EASY DEATH
GRGH
...!
GUH!!
コ ナ

THUMP
clench
I'VE HEARD RUMORS THAT... INSIDE THE BULLETS OF SOME GUNS
IS A POISON THAT'LL SLOWLY DISSOLVE INTO YOUR BLOOD-STREAM
Not sure if it's true though
THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO PUSH YOURSELF SO FAR JUST TO REMOVE IT...
BUT ISN'T CUTTING UP YOUR OWN BODY SCARY TOO?
IT... IS SCARY.
IT'LL BE SCARY NO MATTER WHAT I DO...
AS TIME GOES ON, IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S ONLY MORE AND MORE SCARY THINGS...

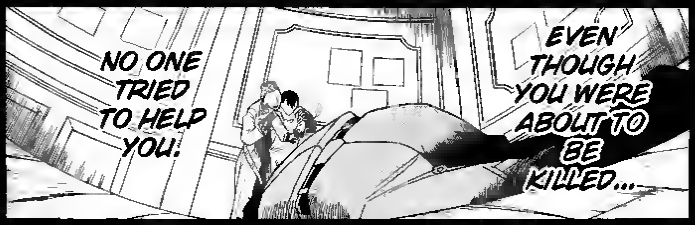
I WASN'T SCARED OF DYING AT ALL...
I WILL ALWAYS PROTECT
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS
EVEN THOUGH JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO,

EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE SO SCARED,
YOU STILL SAVED ME.
THEN YOU MUST BE REALLY KIND.

THAT YOU CAN SO EASILY
"KIND" ISN'T A WORD
I'M NOT KIND AT ALL.
TO SOMEONE WHO'S KILLED SO MANY PEOPLE...
IF IT'S A TITLE THAT CAN BE GIVEN...
THAT OTHERS HAVE LABELLED AS "KIND".
CLENCH
THEN HOW CAN I TRUST ANYONE

AH- NO... ER...
DID I SAY SOME- THING BAD?
UMM
Sorry

IS THERE SOME-THING YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
BY ANY CHANCE,
UH-UHM.
HUH?
EVEN THOUGH YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE TO SAVE HER...
YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO HATE ME.
WHY AREN'T YOU BLAMING ME?


NO ONE TRIED TO HELP YOU.
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE ABOUT TO BE KILLED...

EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE ABOUT TO BE LYNCHED, YOU DIDN'T COMPLAIN AT ALL.
EVEN THOUGH YOU TRIED SO HARD BACK THERE IN THE STORE...

IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT YOU'D BE SCARED
WELL THEY HAD WEAPONS, AFTER ALL

HOWEVER...
THOSE MEN ARE RELATED TO THE SOLDIERS WHO PROTECTED THIS CITY, SO WE ARE INDEBTED TO THEM IN A SENSE

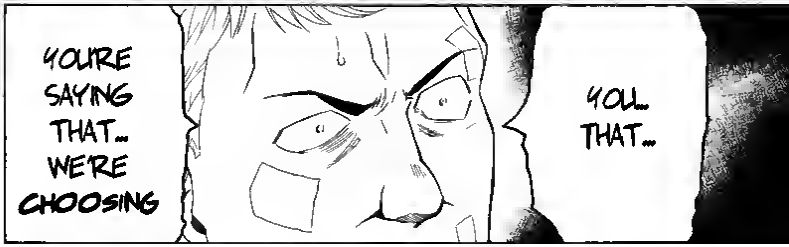
THAT'S TRUE. IT'S TRUE THAT I'M AFRAID OF VIOLENCE
BUT THAT'S NOT IT

THERE'S NO REASON FOR US TO LET A SINGLE ONE OF THEM STAY HERE!
AND YET WE CAN'T DISOBEY! NOT A SINGLE PERSON IN THIS CITY CAN DISOBEY THEM! WHY IS THAT?!
IS EVERYONE IN THIS CITY JUST WEAK-WILLED?! I JUST SAID IT AND EVEN I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THAT CAN'T BE THE REASON, RIGHT?!

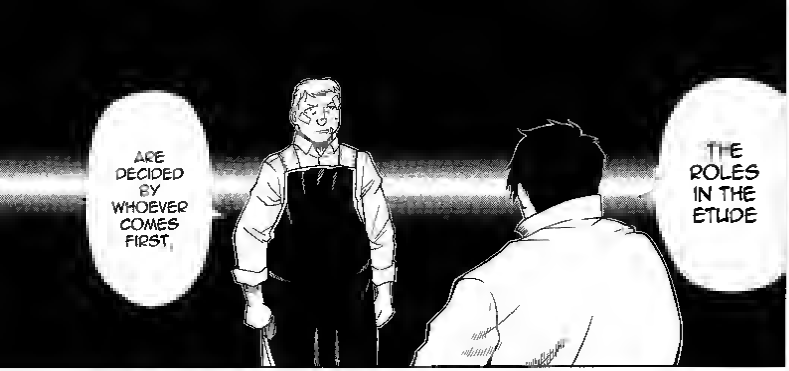
"HOW COULD JUST ONE OFFICER CONTROL A WHOLE BUNCH OF VIOLENT PRISONERS?"
A LONG TIME AGO, I USED TO THINK IT WAS REALLY STRANGE MYSELF...
NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM ATTACKED THE OFFICER.
THEY DIDN'T CARE ONE WHIT FOR REGULATIONS OR DISCIPLINE, AND YET
THEY INSTINCTIVELY ACT SO AS TO AVOID DAMAGING THE STAGE THEY FIND THEMSELVES ON.
JUST LIKE ACTORS SUDDENLY TOLD TO DO IMPROV.
TOSSED INTO AN UNFAMILIAR ENVIRON-MENT,
WHEN HUMANS ARE

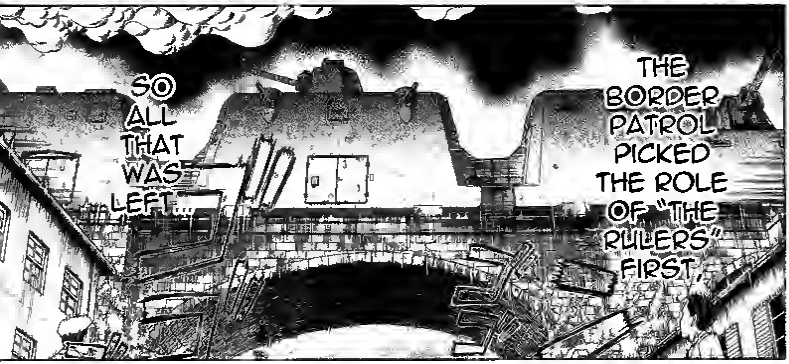
IT'S AN ETUDE WITHOUT A SCRIPT
WITHOUT ANY LINES, THE ACTORS ARE FREE TO ACT AS THEY LIKE,
AS LONG AS THAT'S THE CASE,
ALL OF THE ACTORS WILL DO THEIR BEST TO PREVENT THE STAGE FROM DISSOLVING, THUS CREATING THEIR OWN RESTRICTIONS ON THEMSELVES
NO MATTER HOW GOOD THE PERFORMANCE IS,
IT ONLY MATTERS AS LONG AS THE STAGE EXISTS
BECAUSE IF THE STAGE GETS DESTROYED,
THEN ALL THE ACTORS FALL ALONG WITH IT.

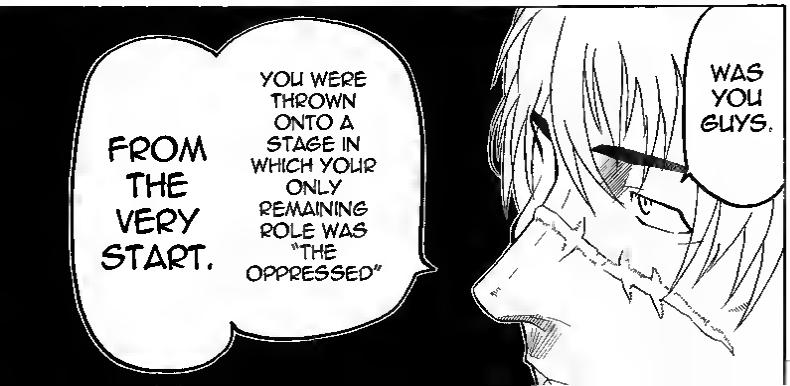
THE REASON WHY NEW RECRUITS CANNOT DISOBEY THEIR SUPERIOR OFFICERS
IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO PROTECT THAT STAGE IN WHICH "NEW RECRUITS CANNOT DISOBEY THEIR SUPERIORS"
EVEN THOSE WHO REBEL ONLY HELP LENGTHEN THE LIFE OF THE ROLE OF "THOSE WHO CANNOT DISOBEY" WHO ARE PREPARED TO DEFEND THEIR STAGE TO THE END.


YOU... THAT...
YOU'RE SAYING THAT... WE'RE CHOOSING

TO CONTINUE ACTING AS THE PLAYERS WHO CANNOT DISOBEY?!
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME?!


THE ROLES IN THE ETUDE
ARE DECIDED BY WHOEVER COMES FIRST.


THE BORDER PATROL PICKED THE ROLE OF "THE RULERS" FIRST.
SO ALL THAT WAS LEFT...


WAS YOU GUYS.
YOU WERE THROWN ONTO A STAGE IN WHICH YOUR ONLY REMAINING ROLE WAS "THE OPPRESSED"
FROM THE VERY START.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
YOU DIDN'T CHOOSE TO PLAY THE PART.
BUT...
FOR THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE.
EVEN THEN, YOU STILL HAVE TO BEAR RESPONSIBILTY
THAT'S RIGHT... IT'S BECAUSE I'M NOT A KIND PERSON
THAT I CAN JUST ASK THIS WITHOUT FEELING BAD...

WHAT DID THEY MAKE YOU DO?
PLEASE TELL ME
NO-
THAT'S-
IT'S SOME-THING THAT SECTION 3 HAS TO KNOW
BOSS
.....

YOU DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THE TALKATIVE TYPE
YOU SURPRISED ME
LIEUTENANT... TOLD ME THE SAME THING, SO...
A LONG TIME AGO,
UH
UMM- I MEAN-
.....
WHICH ONE?
LIEUTENANT?

WHICH ONE YOU, ASK...
EVEN AMONG SOL-DIERS
.....
THERE'S REALLY
A LOT OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE, HUH?
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT SOLDIERS
WERE JUST SCARY, UNREASON-ABLE GOONS, BUT,
THERE'S NICE ONES, EVIL ONES, ALL KINDS OF SOLDIERS
EVEN SO
I'M GLAD
YOU GUYS CAME
TO THIS CITY

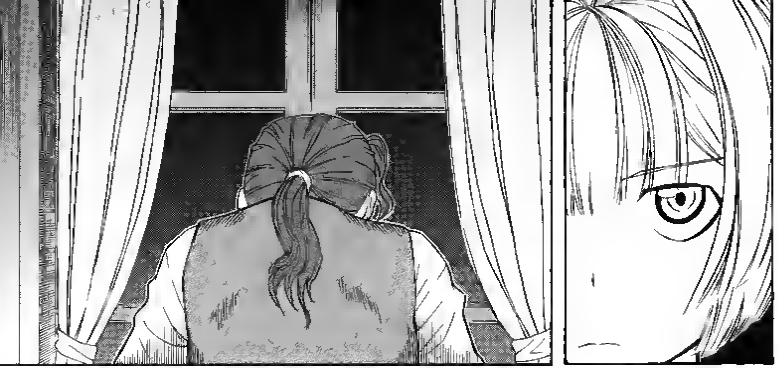
THIS CITY
HAS BECOME UNBEAR-ABLE.
WHEN THE SOL-DIERS CAME
AND IN ORDER TO ACCOMO-DATE THE INCREASE IN POPULA-TION, THE CITY BEGAN TO GROW
THERE WAS MORE WORK, AND, PEOPLE WHO HEARD ABOUT THAT STARTED COMING IN LOOKING FOR WORK
AND THEN, ONCE THE MILITARY LEFT,
MANY PEOPLE WERE OUT OF WORK

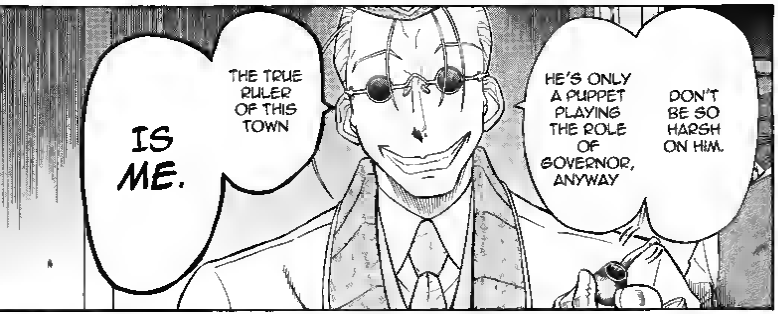
A LOT OF PEOPLE LEFT.
TURNING WHAT WAS LEFT OF THEIR BELONGINGS INTO CASH TO PAY FOR TRAIN FARES IN THE HOPES THAT THERE WOULD BE A JOB WAITING FOR THEM IN ANOTHER TOWN
BUT... THERE'S NO WAY THAT EVERYONE COULD FIND ONE.
WITHOUT A JOB OR A HOME...
THERE ARE NO CITIES NEAR THIS ONE.
THIS CITY HAD DRIED UP AND BEGUN TO DIE.
WITHOUT TRADE AND MOVEMENT BETWEEN CITIES, THERE CAN BE NO GROWTH.
AND YET THE CITY'S STILL ALIVE RIGHT NOW.
WHY IS THAT?
THE MAYOR
SOMEHOW THE MAYOR FOUND A WAY TO GET THE MILITARY TO PAY A SUBSIDY TO THIS CITY.
BUT EVEN THAT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH

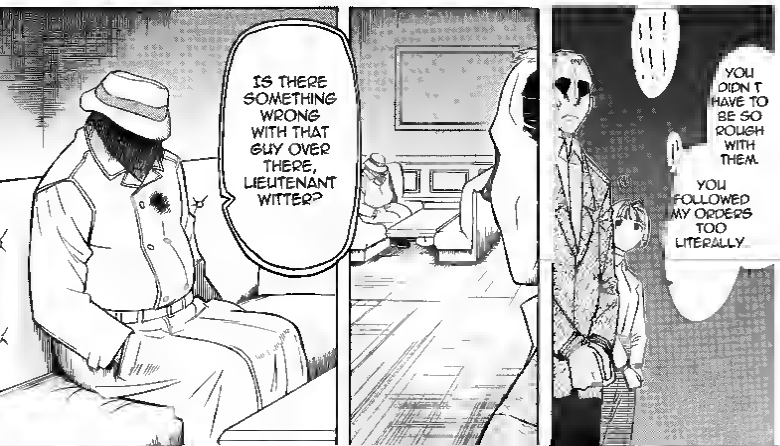
STARTED DOING THAT WORK
THAT'S WHY ALL OF THE RESIDENTS OF THIS CITY.
HOW-EVER,
WE STILL MANAGED TO FIND A TRADE PARTNER
THERE AREN'T ANY
BUT YOU JUST SAID THAT UNLESS THERE'S OTHER CITIES WITH WHICH TO TRADE AND...
Just now
HUH?
RIGHT NEXT TO US.
!!
SOME-ONE WHO'S CLOSER TO US
THAN ANYONE IN THE EMPIRE...

THE... REPUBLIC?!
JUST WHAT KIND OF WORK CAN AN ENTIRE CITY DO FOR THE REPUBLIC?!
AND FOR THAT MATTER,
HOW DID YOU EVEN GET IN CONTACT WITH THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
REALLY... THE THINGS WE DID TO GET IN TOUCH...
ON THAT DAY 2 YEARS AGO,

THE GOVERNOR GOT WORK FOR US...
TO THINK EVEN YOU WOULD BE PART OF THE BORDER PATROL'S GANG.
I SERIOUSLY THOUGHT FOR A SECOND THAT YOU MIGHT HELP US
BUT IT'S OBVIOUS NOW THAT I WAS A FOOL TO THINK THAT.
TURN AROUND AND FACE ME, MAYOR MYLE!




DON'T BE SO HARSH ON HIM.
HE'S ONLY A PUPPET PLAYING THE ROLE OF GOVERNOR, ANYWAY
THE TRUE RULER OF THIS TOWN
IS ME.


IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT GUY OVER THERE, LIEUTENANT WITTER?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BE SO ROUGH WITH THEM.
YOU FOLLOWED MY ORDERS TOO LITERALLY.

EXAMINE ITS COLLAR.
THAT DOG.
.....
OHHH
HUH?
WHINE
WHINE
!!
CORPORAL FRANCIA'S
THAT'S-
DON'T TOUCH THAT COLLAR!

THIS IS AN ORDER, LIEU-TENANT WITTER.
BE SILENT,
AND STAND AT ATTEN-TION.
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ENEMY ORDERS?!
!?
HE'S A SUPERIOR OFFICER
CLICK

SECTION 2 FIRST LIEUTENANT BRANDON
MY... SUPERIOR OFFICER.
BUT,.....
EVEN IF HE IS YOUR SUPERIOR--
THOSE OF YOU IN SECTION 3 WOULDN'T KNOW, BUT
IN SECTION TWO, THERE ARE A FEW STRANGE IRONCLAD RULES
WITHOUT ASKING ABOUT HQ'S REAL INTENTIONS, GOING ON CONSECUTIVE MISSIONS WHERE YOU NEED TO USE MULTIPLE DECEPTIONS TO TRICK YOUR ENEMIES
IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE THE TRUTH IS UNCERTAIN, AND WHERE EVEN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND CAN BACKFIRE, CAUSING PLANS TO GO AWRY
THEREFORE, ALL SECTION 2 MEMBERS MUST ONLY FOLLOW THE ORDERS OF THEIR ON-SITE SUPERIOR OFFICER.
NO MATTER HOW SUSPICIOUS THOSE ORDERS ARE, IF THEY COME FROM A SUPERIOR OFFICER, YOU MUST OBEY, ASSUMING THAT IT IS PART OF A LARGER DECEIT.

EVEN NOW, DESPITE HOW I LOOK,
HE'S THINKING THIS MIGHT JUST BE A PLOY FOR ME TO TRY AND MAKE THE BORDER PATROL LET THEIR GUARD DOWN
.....
THOUGH YOU REALLY TAKE THIS TOO FAR
BUT I GUESS FOLLOWING THE RULES TO THIS EXTENT IS FITTING FOR YOU
IN THAT CASE, WHY NOT JUST DROP THE FACADE,
AND JUST TELL THEM TO GO HOME?
NAH, IT'S FINE LIKE THIS
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT THE CODE ON THIS COLLAR-

WHAT THE-
"I WOULD APPRECIATE CORPORAL, IF YOU WILL".
I would appreciate Corporal, if you will.
THIS ISN'T A CODE AT ALL?!
OF DIF-FERING RANKS, YOU AND I.
WE ARE...

LIEU-TENANT WITTER?
YOUR USUAL INSINUA-TIONS OF A SCANDAL, HUH
LOOKS LIKE SHE REALLY HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU, HUH
IN THE END,
I COULDN'T REACH YOU.
MI-
I...
MAYBE IT'S JUST A CODE ONLY YOU CAN UNDER-STAND.
COULDN'T THAT JUST BE THE CASE?!
IN THAT CASE THERE WAS NO REASON TO PANIC AND KILL HER, WAS THERE?!
THAT'S ALL IT WAS!
JOLT
SHALL I SHOW YOU
THE REASON WHY WE KILLED THAT WOMAN?

#
イイイ
HEIGHT... WEI-
AGE... BLOOD TYPE...
THERE'S SOMETHING HANGING FROM THEIR NECKS.
THEY'VE GATHERED RESIDENT'S OF THIS CITY...

HUMAN TRAF-FICK-ING?!
.....!
I'D RATHER YOU CALL IT "PRUNING".
AND I'D PREFER IT IF YOU DIDN'T MAKE THE WORK THAT SUPPORTS THIS CITY SOUND SO CRIMINAL.
EVERYONE IN THE CITY UNDER-STANDS WHAT'S GOING ON.
IT'S THOSE EYES AGAIN.

MAYOR!
IS THIS REALLY ALLOWED?!
I JUST TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?
HE'S MERELY A PUPPET.
THE REAL RULER OF THIS CITY IS--
AND YOU,
WHY DON'T YOU JUST END THIS SHITTY PLAY?!
IF YOU TAKE A LOOK AROUND, YOU'D REALIZE YOU'RE NOT IN CONTOL OF ANYTHING.
YOU'RE JUST A VESSEL PLAYING THE ROLE OF A RULER!
TELL THE REAL ARVY TO STOP HIDING AROUND AND COME OUT SO I CAN TALK TO HIM!

I UH, DIDN'T MEAN TO INSULT YOU THERE
ERM SORRY
SO WAIT, YOU REALLY ARE?
NO WAY
TCH.
AHAHAHA
HAHAHA
AHAHAH
HAAHAA
JKUKUKU
HAHAAH
HAAHAH
HAHAHA
AHAHAHA
AHAHAHA

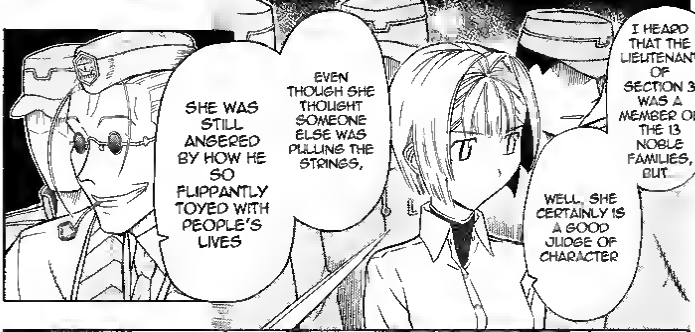
MAYOR! THIS TIME YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE PART TOO!
It's time for a dunking.
#27/END

PumpkinScissors

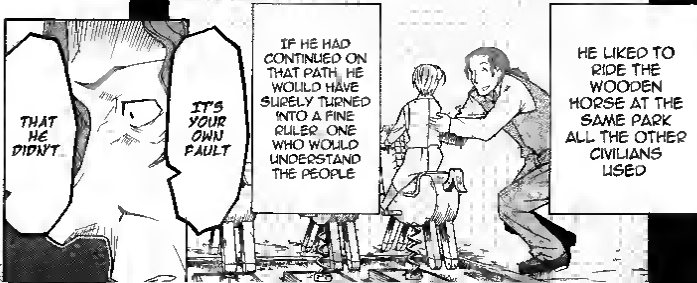
Interval

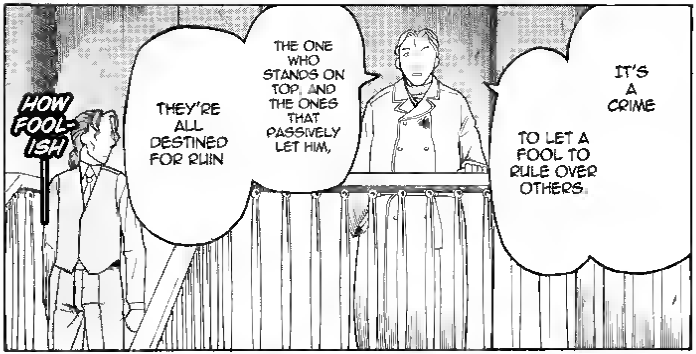
Y KNOW, HE SURE LIKES KILLING PEOPLE
!

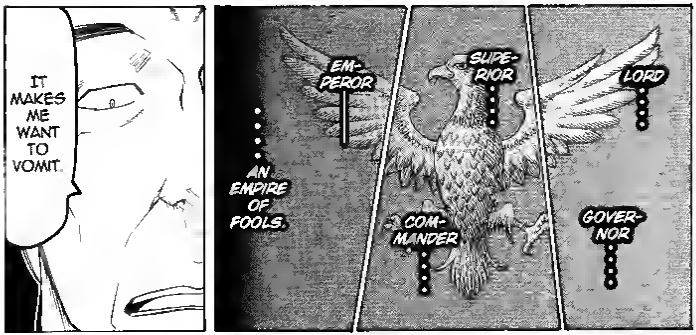
ANYWAY, ABOUT CAPTAIN ARVY


I HEARD THAT THE LIEUTENANT OF SECTION 3 WAS A MEMBER OF THE 13 NOBLE FAMILIES, BUT...
WELL, SHE CERTAINLY IS A GOOD JUDGE OF CHARACTER
EVEN THOUGH SHE THOUGHT SOMEONE ELSE WAS PULLING THE STRINGS,
SHE WAS STILL ANGERED BY HOW HE SO FLIPPANTLY TOYED WITH PEOPLE'S LIVES

THERE WAS A TIME
WHEN HE WAS A MUCH KINDER PERSON


HE LIKED TO RIDE THE WOODEN HORSE AT THE SAME PARK ALL THE OTHER CIVILIANS USED
IF HE HAD CONTINUED ON THAT PATH, HE WOULD HAVE SURELY TURNED INTO A FINE RULER, ONE WHO WOULD UNDERSTAND THE PEOPLE
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT
THAT HE DIDN'T


IT'S A CRIME
TO LET A FOOL TO RULE OVER OTHERS.
THE ONE WHO STANDS ON TOP, AND THE ONES THAT PASSIVELY LET HIM,
THEY'RE ALL DESTINED FOR RUIN
HOW FOOL-ISH


IT MAKES ME WANT TO VOMIT.
EM-PEROR
SUPE-RIOR
LORD
AN EMPIRE OF FOOLS.
COM-MANDER
GOVER-NOR

GOES AROUND IN CIRCLES, NEVER MOVING EVEN ONE STEP FORWARD.
AND ITS RULER, SEATED ATOP A HUGE CAROUSEL,

PumpkinScissors

KUUDERE

CREDITS

TL	NINGEN
TLC	AYASE
TYPESETTER	CRUX
CLEANER	KAILEIGH BLUE

KUUDERE-SCANS!

COME VISIT US AT KUUDERE.COM

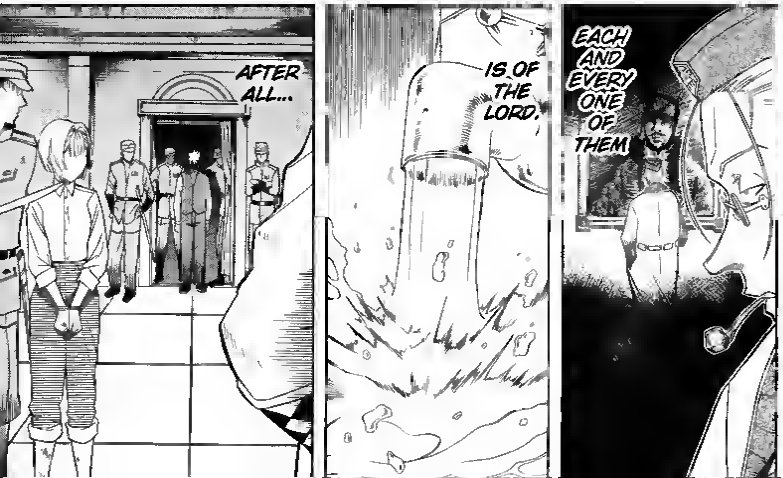
THERE'S AN OLD LEGEND WITHIN THE EMPIRE...
ABOUT SOMETHING CALLED THE "SINKING BELL."
THE PURE SILVER SUZANNE BELL WAS STOLEN FROM A CHURCH.
A PERSON RIDING A BOAT AT THE TIME HAD TO ESCAPE FROM THE THIEVES WHO CAME TO TAKE IT AS THEIR ESCAPE VEHICLE
SO THEY JUMPED INTO THE RIVER
BUT NO ONE IN THE CITY WAS ABLE TO FIND THEM AFTER THAT.
SO THEY'LL CRY FOREVER OUT FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER
"IT HURTS."
"I'M IN AGONY."
...
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY.

Confession

Chapter 28: Melting Ice

I'M JUST SURPRISED THERE'S SUCH A BIG BATHTUB INSIDE THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
.....
WHAT'S WRONG?
TOO SCARED TO SPEAK?!

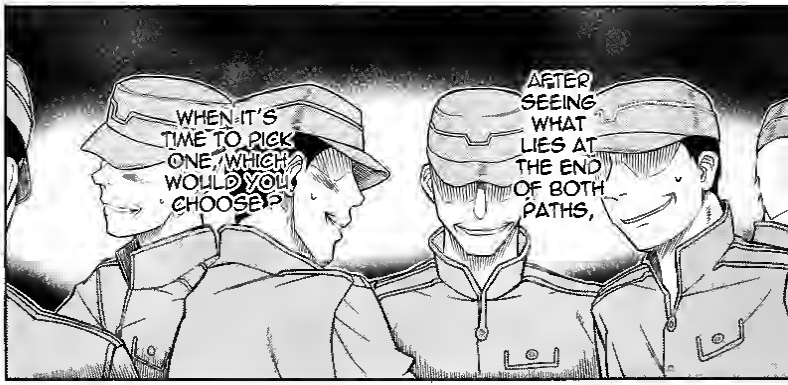
YOU SEE HIS PORTRAITS HERE AND THERE AROUND THE OFFICE TOO
WELL
THIS WAS ORIGINALLY THE HOME OF THE FEUDAL LORD THAT OWNED THIS LAND PREVIOUSLY IT WAS JUST REMODELLED INTO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE


AFTER ALL...
IS OF THE LORD,
EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM

LOOK, IT'S YOUR OLD SWORD.
THIS GUY BELIEVES IN HIM, EVEN NOW.
W-WEREN'T YOU GOING TO DROWN THEM?
LAST TIME WE DID THAT, WE REALIZED SOME-THING
.....
WHEN WATER GETS IN A PERSON'S LUNGS
THEIR BODY STARTS TO PANIC,
SO THEY START THRASHING ABOUT VIOLENTLY

SO IF THOSE TWO ARE SOMEHOW ABLE TO DO THAT... WELL,
SOME OF THEM EVEN MANAGE TO GRAB ONTO THE EDGE OF THE TUB.
TO HIT THEM WITH THAT SABER OF YOURS UNTIL THEY FALL BACK IN.
WE WANT YOU
NO YET... WHY ARE YOU ALL...
YOUR PARENTS AND RELATIVES WERE ALL GOOD, HONORABLE MEN.

OR LIVE AS YOU PLEASE NO RULE OVER OTHERS.
LIVE AN HONEST LIFE AND DIE PATHETICALLY,
THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.


WHEN IT'S TIME TO PICK ONE, WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?
AFTER SEEING WHAT LIES AT THE END OF BOTH PATHS,

THE AR-MOURED TRAIN
TOOK THE CHANCE WHEN WE GOT IT.
ALL OF US

I'D LIKE TO HAVE A WEEK TO PLAY AROUND WITH HIM A LITTLE MORE
NAH...
YOU FINISH IT?
SORRY I'M LATE
FOR NOW, IT'S JUST SLEEP-ING.
I GOT IT TIED UP IN THE COURT-YARD
Ah, it's great to be king. Isn't that right, mayor?

I'M AT A LOSS, REALLY
.....
YOU BAS-TARDS
AREN'T EVEN HUMAN
Hurry up and walk.
SNAP

LET'S START WITH 5 MINUTES UNDER
AND THEN ADD ANOTHER MINUTE EACH TIME
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU NEED TO BE DOING RIGHT NOW?
YOU'RE *QUITE* HONEST, AREN'T YOU
Sfx: Sploosh
SO COME HERE AND JOIN THE FUN!
YOU'RE ON SABER DUTY RIGHT?
COME ON, HURRY UP AND GET OVER HERE, MAYOR.
MAYBE 5 MINUTES IS TOO MUCH.
OH MY! DID I FORGET TO UNDO YOUR BINDINGS?!

BR
NG
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S A CALL FROM THE MILITARY!
IF WE DON'T PICK UP THE PHONE,
THEY'LL FIND IT SUSPICIOUS!
HE'S NOT GOING TO BETRAY US, IS HE
HE DOESN'T HAVE THE GUTS
MORE IMPORTANTLY, THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE VERY ENTERTAINING.

THERE'S ....
THREE OF THEM!

"PANT"
"PANT"
RING
RING
RING
RING
"HUFF"
"HUFF"

I'M COMING!!
"WHEEZE"
"WHEEZE"
I'M COMING!

THIS CITY
AND THEN...
I'LL CONFESS ...
RING
RING
I'LL TELL THEM EV-ERY-THING.
RING
RING
RING

YOU'RE LATE.
I... REA... DY...
THIS CITY IS...
ALRIGHT... JUST TELL THEM THE SAME THING YOU DID THIS MORNING...
KCHACK
Hello... This is Karussel's governer, Myle.
My authorization code is A-2834.
OH HELLO
I CALLED EARLIER THIS MORNING AS WELL; THIS IS SECTION 3'S CHIEF HUNKS

AS YOU REQUESTED EARLIER THIS MORNING, I HAVE PUT MYSELF UNDER THE COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT WITTER AND LIEUTENANT MALVIN.
HOWEVER, THEY HAVE STILL NOT AVAILED ME OF THE DETAILS OF THEIR MISSION.

WELL YOU SEE...
I cannot stay on the phone for long.
Sorry, but I have to hang up now.
CLANG

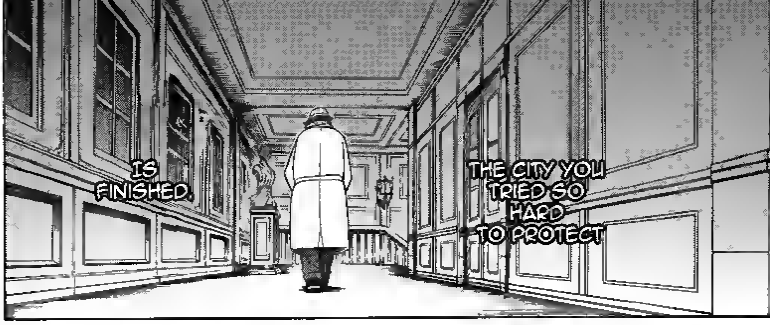
HE'S A RATHER CURT FELLOW, HUH?
EH?
E-EXCUSE ME?
Can I have that back, please?
.....?
SST

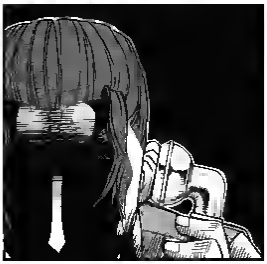
DON'T HANG UP...
PLEASE...
THAT'S GOOD
PLEASE... DON'T HANG UP...
HO-
HOW...
...UH
UM-
SECTION 3...
START RE-CORD-ING THIS!
NOW!
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO KEEP THIS UP?!

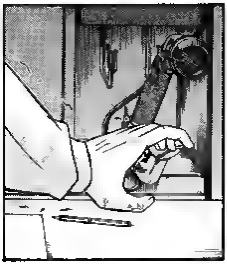
Y-Y-YES SIR.
NOW GET TO IT.
I'LL MAKE SURE CORNELIA FROM SECTION ONE NEVER LETS YOU HEAR THE END OF IT.
IF YOU DON'T START RECORDING THIS RIGHT NOW,
BUT WE CAN'T RECORD UNLESS WE'RE AUTHORIZED TO BY...
RUSTLE
LIEUTENANT BRANDON!
HOW LONG WILL YOU BE ABLE TO PROP UP THIS TOWN'S FINANCIAL STATE?
DOING THINGS LIKE HUMAN TRAFFICKING?!
TCH
AND THE FACT THAT YOU SET UP THE ORGANIZATION TO FACILITATE THIS TRAFFICKING
BACK WHEN YOU INFILTRATED THE REPUBLIC!
THEY MUST HAVE CAUGHT ON BY NOW!

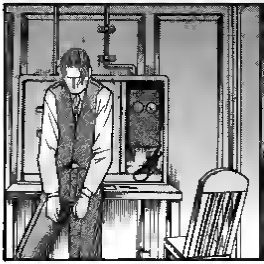
THERE AREN'T EVEN THAT MANY WOMEN AND CHILDREN LEFT WORTH SELLING NOW.
YOU CAN'T EVEN USE THIS TOWN AS A BUSINESS HEADQUARTERS ANYMORE!
AND EVEN THE PEOPLE YOU'VE CAUGHT NOW.
LIEUTENANT MALVIN AND LIEUTENANT WITTER,
IS IT REALLY WORTH IT TO KILL THEM?!
INCLUDING CORPORAL FRANCIA WHO WAS KILLED BY YOUR COMMAND... WITH THIS IT'LL BE 3 PEOPLE!
IT WAS NO PROBLEM KILLING CORPORAL FRANCIA.
.....
ACCORDING TO THE TREATY,
RESTATIONING MILITARY TROOPS IN THE BORDER CITY OF KARUSSELL IS FORBIDDEN

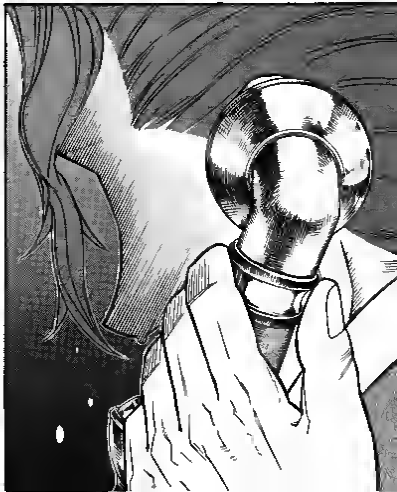
IF JUST ONE "CIVILIAN" DIES, THEN IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR THE MILITARY TO DIRECTLY INTERVENE.
THAT'S WHY BOTH ME AND CORPORAL FRANCIA HAD TO HIDE OUR AFFILIATION AND PRETEND TO BE NORMAL CITIZENS.
THEN...
WHAT ABOUT WHEN YOU SAID...
HOWEVER, UNLIKE ME AND FRANCIA, THEY ARE REGISTERED AS MILITARY PERSONNEL.
AND MALVIN WITH THE EXCUSE THAT IT'S A "SHORT INSPECTION".
EVEN WITTER IS PROBABLY POSING AS A TRAVELLER
SORRY, MAYOR,
BUT YOU'RE WRONG
YOU SAID IT WAS ALL IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THE TOWN COULD CONTINUE TO EXIST, THAT'S WHY!
"I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO KILL THEM" YOU SAID. WAS THAT...?
BUT WE WERE JUST USING YOU.
"HELP US WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND WE'LL HELP YOU ALL ESCAPE FROM HERE" IS WHAT WE PROMISED YOU.


IS
FINISHED.
THE CITY YOU
TRIED SO
HARD
TO PROTECT









COUGH
pant
pant
HACK
wheeze
pant
YOU'RE A TOUGH ONE, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
I WONDER HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE FOR YOU TO START CRYING~
SO, WHAT'S RUNNING THROUGH THAT LITTLE HEAD OF YOURS?
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, IT'S POINTLESS TO EVEN THINK ABOUT ESCAPING.
WHEN YOU START DROWNING, YOUR MIND GOES BLANK AND YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
THAT'S RIGHT
THAT WOMAN WAS THE SAME
HA AA
HA AA
HA AA
HA AA
HA AA
HA AA

!
LEFT
ONE
GUARD
ONLY
THERE'S
NOW
MY
BREATH
IS SHE DEAD YET?
TRY POKING HER WITH YOUR SABER
WHA?

PULL
CH
WHY YOU LITTLE...
!?
GRIP

WHAT
WHAT THE-
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

BUT I'M READY TO FULFILL MY DUTIES AS YOUR GUARD NOW!
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT LIEUTENANT WITTER!
HOW COULD A HALF-DROWNED PERSON BE SO...
WHAT THE...
I'M ALREADY USED
TO DROWNING ABOVE GROUND
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, MY BODY WAS REALLY WEAK.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT MESSAGE ON THE COLLAR MEANT TO YOU,
LIEU-TEN-ANT WITTER.
THAT IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAN WHAT YOU IMAGINED.
BUT I THINK
!?
BUT ENOUGH ABOUT THAT.
U-UNDER-STOOD!
RIGHT NOW, WE NEED TO FOCUS ON GETTING OUT OF HERE!
D-DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!

DON'T WORRY
EH?
BUT
GRIND
WE'RE THE RULERS OF THIS CITY
THERE'S ALL SORTS OF WAYS TO GET THEM.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THAT LAST SOLDIER IS?
OH- YEAH
I KNOW ALL THE HOTELS AROUND HERE
SO I HAVE A ROUGH IDEA OF WHERE HE SHOULD BE
!
YOU WANTED TO SHOOT SOMETHING, RIGHT?
YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO SHOOT HIM

JUST WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE!
I'LL TEACH THEM...
HOW'S TIRAMISU DOING?

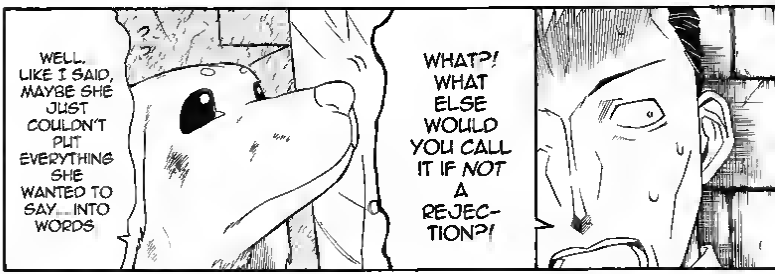
CORORAL FLAUS FRANCIA
A... FLOWER?
THIS IS...
ON OUR MISSION TO INFILTRATE THE REPUBLIC
PLAYED THE PART OF MY WIFE
THAT'S RIGHT... JUST ANOTHER PART OF OUR MISSION
OUR ACTIONS WERE JUST PART OF OUR MISSION
WE PLAYED THE PART OF A MARRIED COUPLE SO AS TO NOT AROUSE SUSPICION
ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE TELLING ME--
LIEUTENANT WITTER, THAT'S CLASSIFIED INFORMATION!

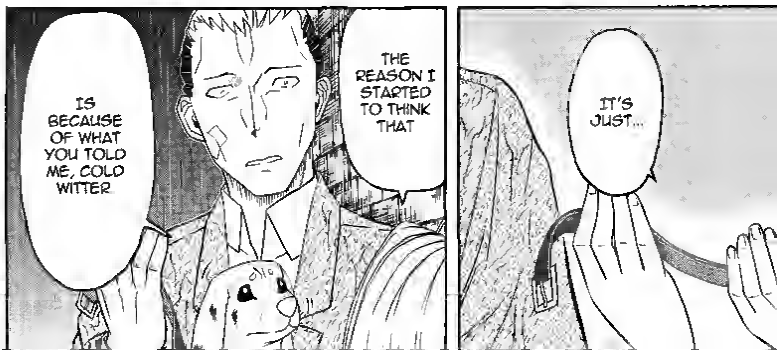
IN ENEMY TERRITORY IN OUR HOUSE...
WE OFTEN SLEPT TOGETHER
AS LONG AS IT WAS PART OF OUR "MISSION".
IT WAS FINE.
SHE CONTINUED TO CARRY OUT HER MISSION
BUT THE ONE WHO WASN'T FINE WITH IT
WAS ME.

I PRO-POSED TO HER.
I DURING OUR MISSION
SINCE I'D FALLEN FOR HER, I COULD NO LONGER HIDE IT
IS IT BECAUSE OUR BODIES HAD BECOME LIKE A COUPLE THAT MY HEART STARTED TO THINK LIKE THAT TOO?
TO GET MARRIED FOR REAL
I WANTED US

"YOU'RE A LIEUTENANT AND I'M A CORPORAL".
"YOU AND I... WE'RE OF DIFFERENT RANKS."
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID
THOSE WORDS OF HERS WERE A REJEC-TION
BUT WAS THAT
REALLY A REJECTION?
.....

EVEN I CAN'T PUT EVERYTHING I FEEL INSIDE INTO WORDS ALL THE TIME...
MAYBE CORPORAL FRANCIA WAS LIKE THAT TOO.


WHAT?! WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU CALL IT IF NOT A REJEC-TION?!
WELL, LIKE I SAID, MAYBE SHE JUST COULDN'T PUT EVERYTHING SHE WANTED TO SAY...INTO WORDS

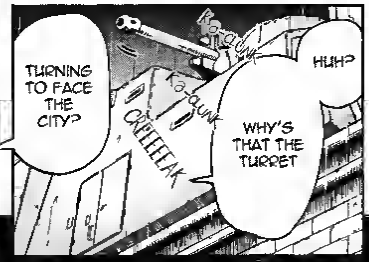

IT'S JUST...
THE REASON I STARTED TO THINK THAT
IS BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU TOLD ME, COLO WITTER

YOU TWO ARE COM-MANDER AND SUBOR-DINATE.
EVEN NOW, I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL TO THAT!
.....
JUST WHAT ARE YOU...
PING
ARF
ARF
ARF
HEY WHAT'S WRONG?

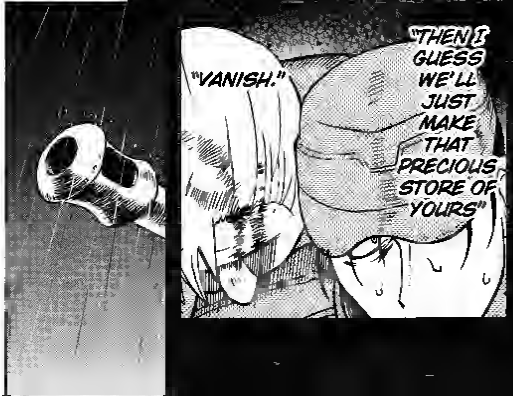
THESE ARE YOUR ORDERS!
THEY MAY BE SOLDIERS BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SCARED!
AND THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL LOOK LIKE
GRIP
AT THIS RATE...
THIS ISN'T GOOD...

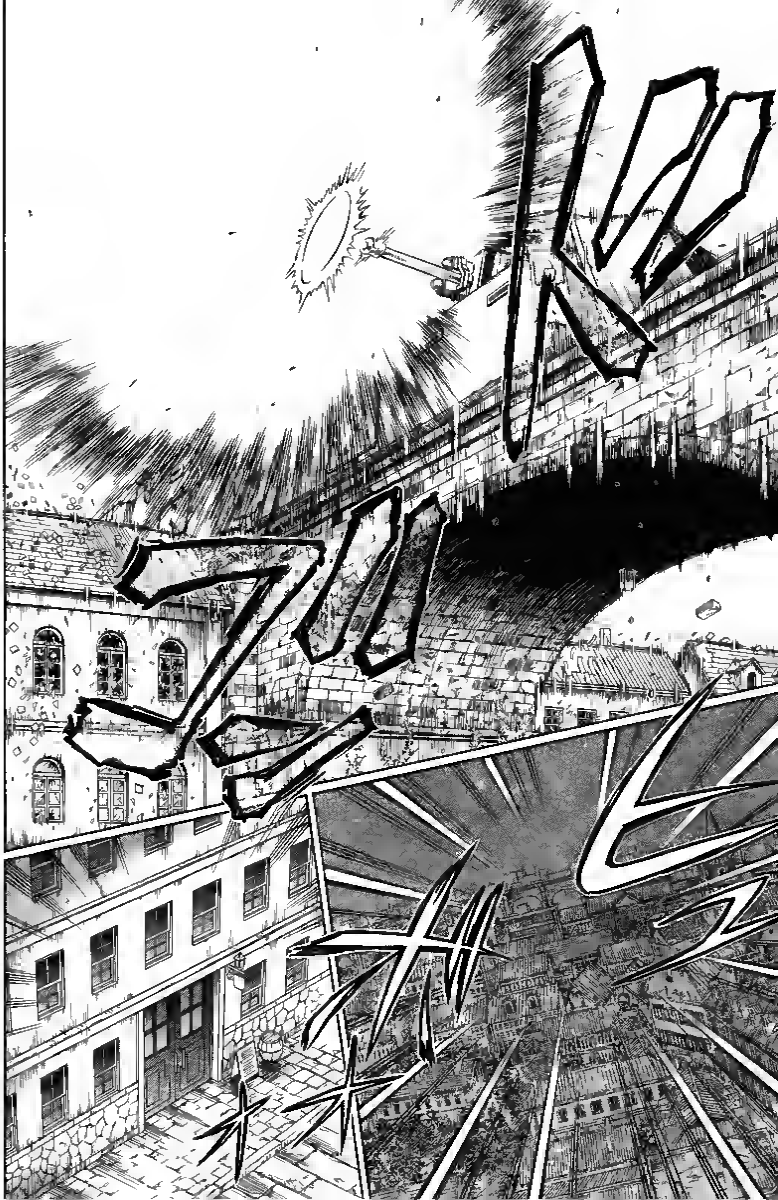
WILL BECOME OUR ENEMY
THE WHOLE CITY

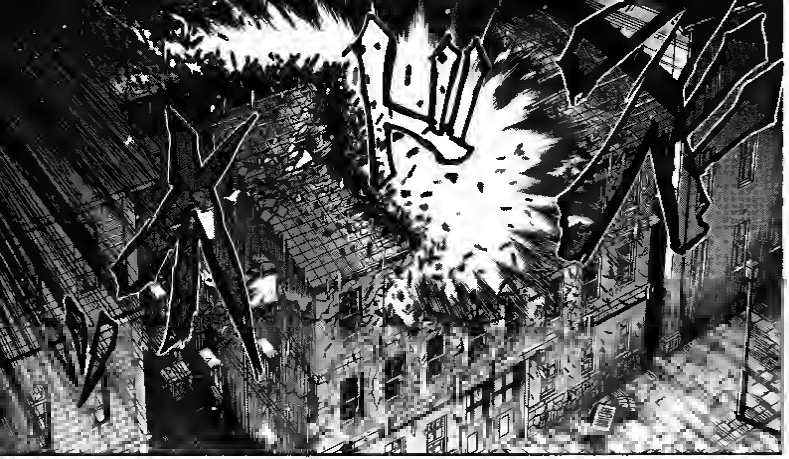
JUST WHAT ON EARTH ARE THEY...


TURNING TO FACE THE CITY?
KA-CHUNK
CKHHHHLAK
WHY'S THAT THE TURRET
HUH?

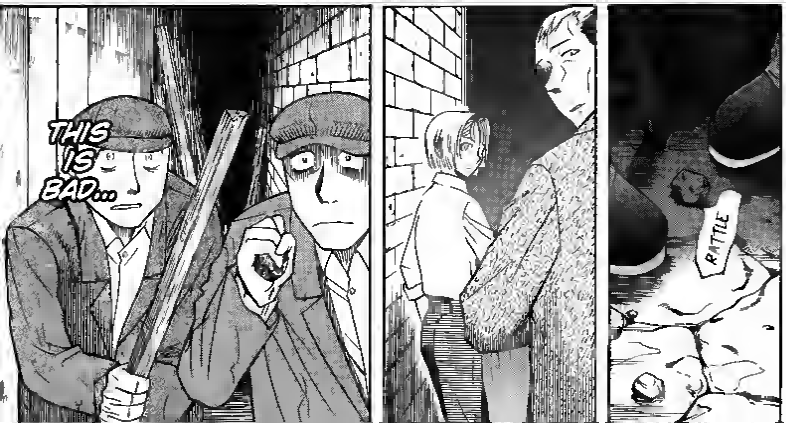
THERE'S NO WAY-


"VANISH."
"THEN I GUESS WE'LL JUST MAKE THAT PRECIOUS STORE OF YOURS"





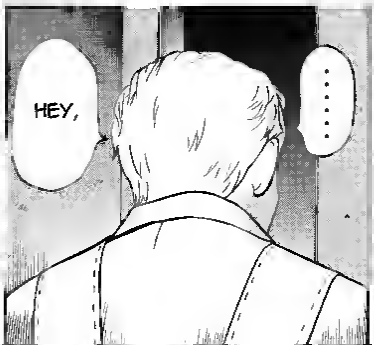
CLACK
ARE THEY INSANE?!


THIS IS BAD...
RATTLE

THOSE GUYS...
THAT'S WHERE MY STORE IS...

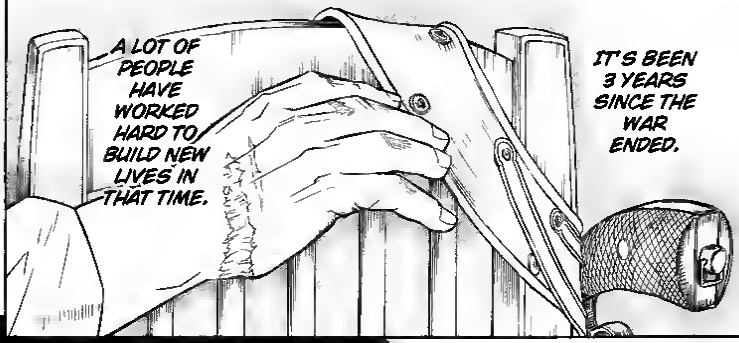
I NEED TO CLEAN UP MY STORE

W-WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

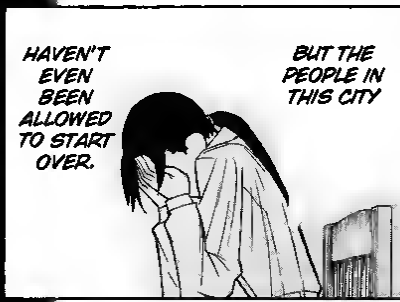

HEY,
.....

IF YOU GO OUTSIDE RIGHT NOW...
BUT

IF YOU GUYS HADN'T COME HERE,
THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO HAPPEN RIGHT?
I'M SO SORRY,
BUT IN THE END OUR FEELINGS AREN'T ENOUGH
THOSE GUYS... THEY ALL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO OBEY...


A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE WORKED HARD TO BUILD NEW LIVES IN THAT TIME.
IT'S BEEN 3 YEARS SINCE THE WAR ENDED.

they've been stuck in the same place, going in circles
For 3 years,


HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN ALLOWED TO START OVER.
BUT THE PEOPLE IN THIS CITY

for as long as that armored train is here.
And they'll keep going like that

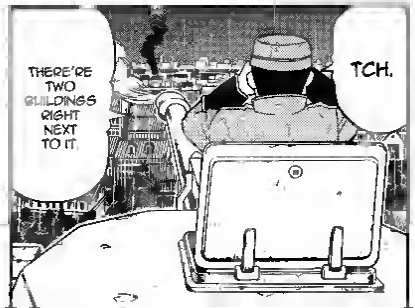
THRO
THERE'S JUST ONE THING
I WANT TO ASK YOU

I'M SURE THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE WHO'VE EVEN SOLD OUT THEIR FAMILY.
BUT IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THOSE PEOPLE... COULD STILL LIVE HAPPY LIVES?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT WE CERTAINLY REGRET WHAT WE'VE DONE.
KYAAA
ドドドド

WHAT.....

TARGETTING THIS BUILDING
THEY'RE
RUHE

YOU GOT THE BAR IN ONE SHOT RIGHT?
HEY


THERE'RE TWO BUILDINGS RIGHT NEXT TO IT.
TCH.

H-HEY
LET ME SHOOT THE NEXT ONE!
THAT WAS JUST A FLUKE!
LET'S CHANGE UP THE RULES AND GO AGAIN
KA-CLUNK
KA-CLUNK
KA-CLUNK
I WANNA TRY TOO!
LET ME TRY TOO! I'LL MAKE SURE TO GET IT IN ONE SHOT.
ドオン
ドオン
ドオン

THEY'RE NOT CORRECTING THEIR AIM?!
IS IT BECAUSE THEIR EQUIPMENT ISN'T WELL MAINTAINED, OR IS IT BECAUSE THEY'RE JUST NOT USED TO IT
AND THEY TAKE A LONG TIME TO RELOAD
HURRY! WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE!
I'M NOT GOING
!?
I... EAVES-DROPPED EARLIER.
"IF ONLY THERE WAS A PLACE FOR THEM TO RECOVER"
BUT THIS CITY THAT'S SOLD PEOPLE, WE...
WE CAN'T BE SAVED ANYMORE, CAN WE
IF THAT'S THE CASE,
THEN I SHOULD TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY FOR IT HERE

I WAS ALSO A HUMAN THAT WAS SOLD BEFORE...
BUT I DON'T REALLY HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST ANYONE.

AFTER ALL, IF THEY DIDN'T DO IT BACK THEN, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAVE THEIR FAMILES
IT WAS SOMETHING I DECIDED MYSELF.

EVEN SO,
I DON'T THINK YOU DESERVE TO BECOME THEIR PREY AS ATONEMENT.

I'M SURE IT WAS A BAD THING TO DO, BUT...
IF IT WAS GOING TO CAUSE SO MUCH PAIN TO THOSE LEFT BEHIND...

IT'S SOMETHING'S FAULT, OR IT'S SOMEONE'S FAULT
BELEVING SOMETHING AS MISTAKEN AS THAT, AND THEN TRYING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY, IS WRONG

COME ON LET'S HURRY
O-OKAY

UH... UMM.
!

wobble
wobble

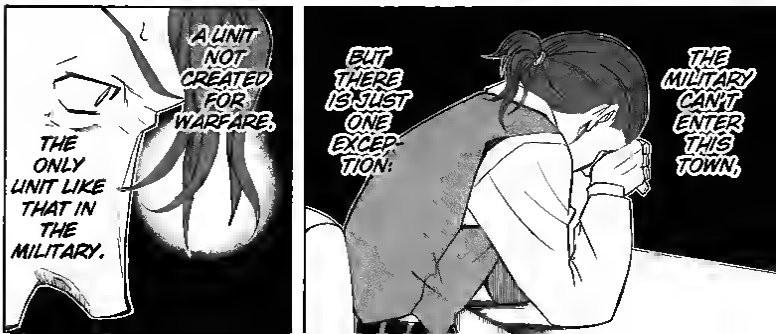
I'LL TAKE THE LUGGAGE.
ガチャ

MR. SOLDIER?!
HUH...?
IS IT BECAUSE OF THE FEVER?
MY WOUND IS ITCHING
WHAT

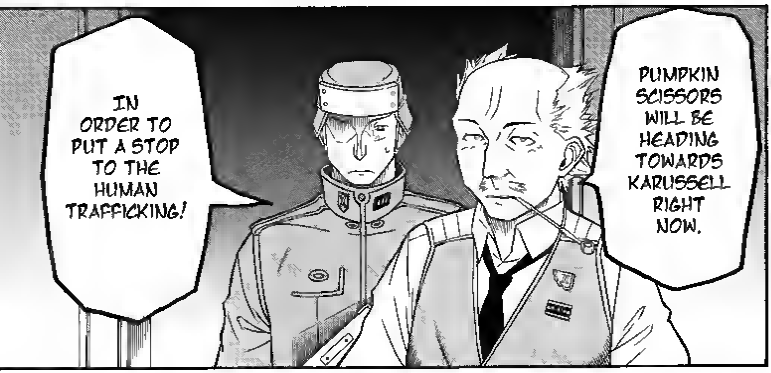
WIGGLE
squish
Aren't YOU... the one who should die here?
BRM BRM
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
Killing is bad.
So doesn't that make YOU the bad one?
MISTER SOLDIER!
I'M FINE SO HURRY UP AND GO ON AHEAD!
BUT-

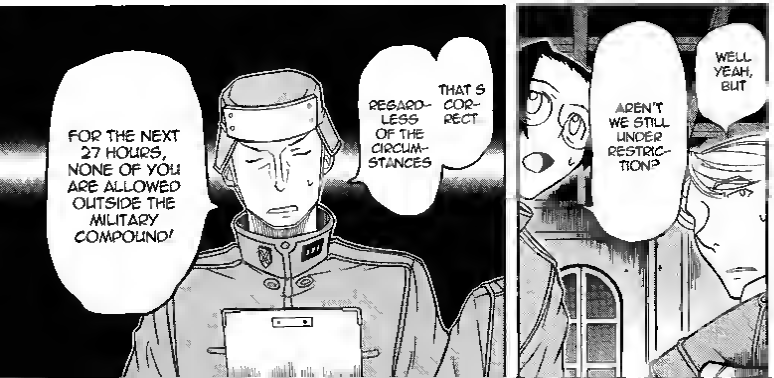
ドゴ
ドゴ
RUHE
HEY.
MAYOR.

IT'S BECAUSE I'M THE RULER HERE THAT I CAN DO THIS.
THERE'S 27 HOURS UNTIL THE NEXT DEAL GOES DOWN.
MAKE SURE YOU CAPTURE THEM BEFORE THEN.


THE MILITARY CAN'T ENTER THIS TOWN.
BUT THERE IS JUST ONE EXCEP-TION:
A UNIT NOT CREATED FOR WARFARE.
THE ONLY UNIT LIKE THAT IN THE MILITARY.

W- WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
IF IT'S PUMPKIN SCISSORS, THEN...!


IN ORDER TO PUT A STOP TO THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING!
PUMPKIN SCISSORS WILL BE HEADING TOWARDS KARUSSELL RIGHT NOW.

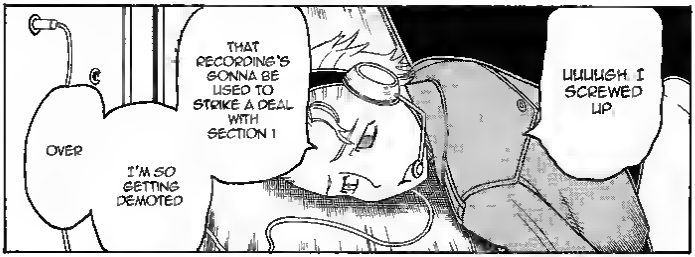

FOR THE NEXT 27 HOURS, NONE OF YOU ARE ALLOWED OUTSIDE THE MILITARY COMPOUND!
REGARD-LESS OF THE CIRCUM-STANCES
THAT'S COR-RECT
AREN'T WE STILL UNDER RESTRIC-TION?
WELL, YEAH, BUT

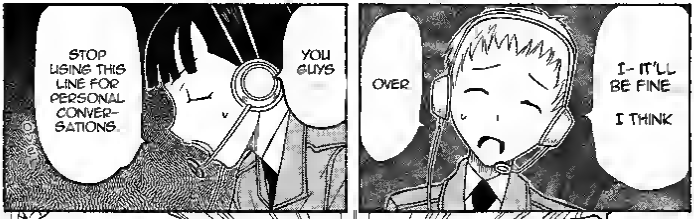
WELL THEN
LET'S JUST ASK SECTION 1 FOR HELP.
I FOUND OUT
ABOUT THE SCANDAL CONCERNING THE ARMORED TRAIN!

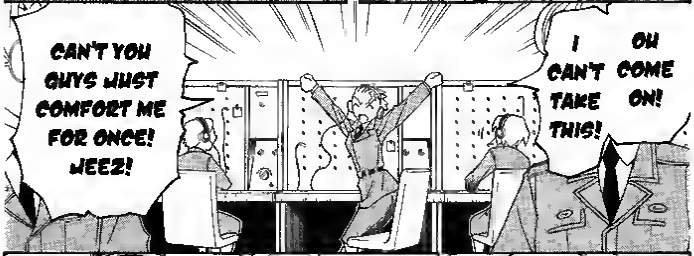
#28／END

PumpkinScissors

Interval


UUUUGH. I SCREWED UP.
THAT RECORDING'S GONNA BE USED TO STRIKE A DEAL WITH SECTION 1
I'M SO GETTING DEMOTED
OVER


I- IT'LL BE FINE
I THINK
OVER
YOU GUYS
STOP USING THIS LINE FOR PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS.


OH COME ON!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS!
CAN'T YOU GUYS JUST COMFORT ME FOR ONCE! WEE2!

WELL...
IT WAS UNDER CAPTAIN HUNKS' ORDERS.
THAT'S RIGHT
AND THEN THERE'S THAT BUSINESS WITH CORPORAL FRANCIA.
IT SEEMS LIKE
THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY BE SOME GREAT INFO TO USE AS LEVERAGE AGAINST SECTION 2.
YOU ACTUALLY DID A GREAT THING, HUH.

AILEEN, IT'S NOT GOOD TO SPREAD THOSE KIND OF RUMORS
I could say that I was sexually harassed and that's all it takes
BUT AREN'T MOST OF SECTION 2'S PEOPLE...?
STAND OUT?
BUT THAT KIND OF STUFF DEFINITELY HAPPENS, DOESN'T IT?
THEY MUST GET A LOT OF PEOPLE TRYING TO INFILTRATE THEM.
THERE'S A LOT OF PRESSURE PUT ON THEM.
THERE'S A COUPLE OF SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE HERE TOO, THOUGH
YEAH YEAH! LIKE THE GUYS IN THE SECOND PLATOON
OH!
THE SECOND PLATOON'S
Alright back to work
ABOUT THAT "CORPORAL FRANCIA" MENTIONED IN THAT CALL
ANYWAY
HM...
I KNOW I'VE HEARD THAT NAME SOMEWHERE
WASN'T IT FROM THAT ONE INCIDENT?
Library

A FEW YEARS BEFORE THE TRUCE
OH- BY THE WAY, YOU DIDN'T HEAR THIS FROM ME
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT CORPORAL FRANCIA, THERE'S ONE INCIDENT YOU'LL DEFINITELY WIND UP TALKING ABOUT
YEAH!
ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORT TEAM, CORPORAL FRANCIA (THOUGH HE WAS A PRIVATE AT THE TIME) STOPPED HIM. IT'S SAID THAT THANKS TO HIM, THERE WERE NO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES, BUT HE TOOK A FATAL WOUND AND DIED AT THE SCENE
HOWEVER WHILE THEY WERE TRANSPORTING HIM BACK TO THE REPUBLIC, HE ESCAPED AND WENT ON A MASSACRE IN THE TOWN
WHEN THE EMPIRE'S NEW RULER WAS BEING CORONATED, ONE REPUBLIC SOLDIER THAT HAD BEEN CAPTURED AS A PRISONER OF WAR WAS PARDONED
WELL THEY WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A TOWN
EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD GUNS THEY DIDN'T USE THEM.
THEY PAINTED IT AS "THE REPUBLIC ANSWERS THE EMPIRE'S KINDNESS WITH OPEN HOSTILITY"
BUT RATHER THAN SAYING "THE DAUGHTER INHERITED HER FATHER'S WILL AND JOINED THE MILITARY"
THAT INCIDENT WAS THEN USED FOR PROPA-GANDA
THOUGH SECTION 2 USUALLY TRIES TO MAKE SURE THAT THE HISTORY OF THEIR OPERATIVES CAN'T BE UNCOVERED, IT SEEMS THIS WAS AN EXCEPTION

ACCORDING TO MILITARY LAW THOUGH DEFEATING THE ENEMY TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER PROTECTION OF THE CITIZENRY,
BUT I GUESS THE ACTED ON FEELINGS NOT RULES
IT LOOKS LIKE THE SOLDIERS IN THAT UNIT WERE SOFTER THAN MOST.
BUT FOR THE DAUGHTER THAT WAS LEFT ALL ALONE.
IT DION'T MATTER HOW VILLIFIED THE ENEMY WAS.
SHE JUST WANTED HER FATHER BACK.
CONSIDERING ALL THAT,
HER COMPATIBILITY WITH SOMEONE LIKE COLD WITTER WHO'S ANAL ABOUT THE RULES SHOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD
I SEE...
MAYBE THAT'S IT.
←NEXT!

PumpkinScissors

EDITOR'S NOTE: "I AND YOU"

YOU'RE ALSO PROBABLY WONDERING WHY ON PAGE 173, THERE'RE WORDS BEHIND THE "YOU"S THE WORM-THING'S SAYING.

WELL, THE WORM-THING IS USING THE CHARACTER 俺, WHICH IS ONE OF THE CHARACTERS FOR "I", BUT USES THE FURIGANA "オマエ", WHICH MEANS "YOU".

BECAUSE THERE'S NO WAY TO CONVEY THIS IN ENGLISH, AND IT WOULD LOOK WEIRD TO DO WHAT WE DID WITH THE CHAPTER TITLES, WE'RE DOING THIS INSTEAD.

-CRUX

KUUDERE-SCANS!

COME VISIT US AT KUUDERE.COM

EDITOR'S NOTE: "THE HANGING BELL"

ALRIGHT GUYS, YOU'RE PROBABLY SCRATCHING YOUR HEADS AND WONDERING "GEE, WHERE DID ALL THIS STUFF ABOUT A 'HANGING BELL' COME FROM? I HAVEN'T SEEN *THAT* BEFORE."

WEEEELL, IN SHORT, THAT WAS A TRANSLATION ERROR ON OUR PART.

YOU SEE, WHEN WE ORINGIALLY SAW THE PHRASE, WE LOOKED UP WHAT THE ENGLISH EQUIVALENT WOULD BE. WE DIDN'T REALIZE THAT THE BELL ITSELF WOULD BE EXPLAINED IN-STORY. BECAUSE OF THAT, WE USED "DUNKING" (A SIMILAR TORTURE METHOD) INSTEAD. SORRY 'BOUT THAT.

OBVIOUSLY THAT WAS NOT THE CASE, SO FROM HERE ON OUT, WE'LL BE USING "THE HANGING BELL" INSTEAD.

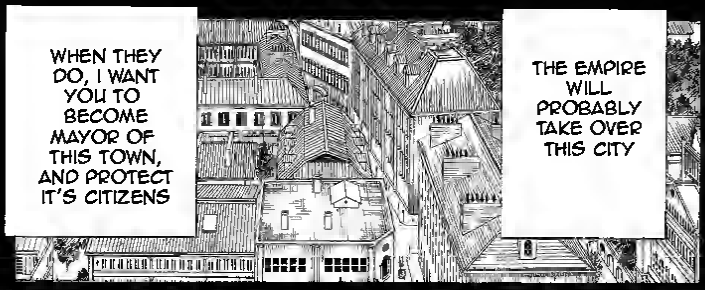
KUUDERE-SCANS!

-CRUX

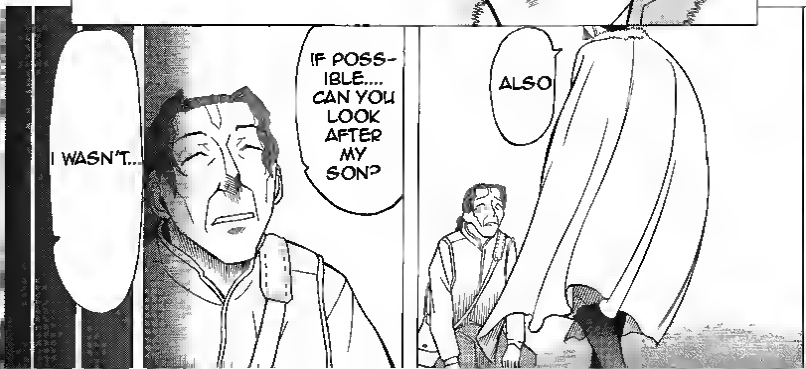
COME VISIT US AT KUUDERE.COM

I... I WILL FIGHT ALONG-SIDE WITH YOU...!!
WAIT FOR ME, MY LORD!!
D... DAMN IT
カタ
カタ
UGH
EVERYONE HAS THEIR DUTY TO PERFORM
YOU'RE FAR TOO TIMID, MILE
WHAT IF YOUR TIMIDNESS AFFECTS OUR MORALE?

PROBABLY NOT LAST EVEN A WEEK
WE WILL...
OUR ARMAMENT IS OUTDATED
ASK THE EMPIRE TO HELP US
THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU TO...
MILE
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT ONLY YOU CAN DO
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT ONLY A PERSON WHO HAS A LOT OF ENDURANCE, CAN DO
WE DON'T HAVE ANY TRAINS, AND I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY DAYS IT WILL TAKE FOR YOU TO REACH THE NEXT TOWN OVER

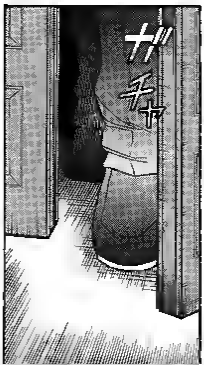

WHEN THEY DO, I WANT YOU TO BECOME MAYOR OF THIS TOWN, AND PROTECT IT'S CITIZENS
THE EMPIRE WILL PROBABLY TAKE OVER THIS CITY

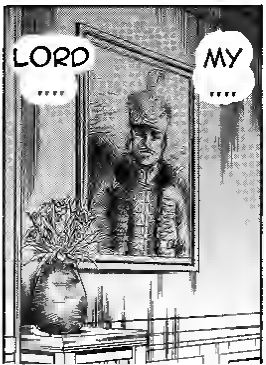
I WILL DEFINATELY PROTECT THIS CITY!!
I WILL...


I WASN'T...
IF POSS-IBLE.... CAN YOU LOOK AFTER MY SON?
ALSO

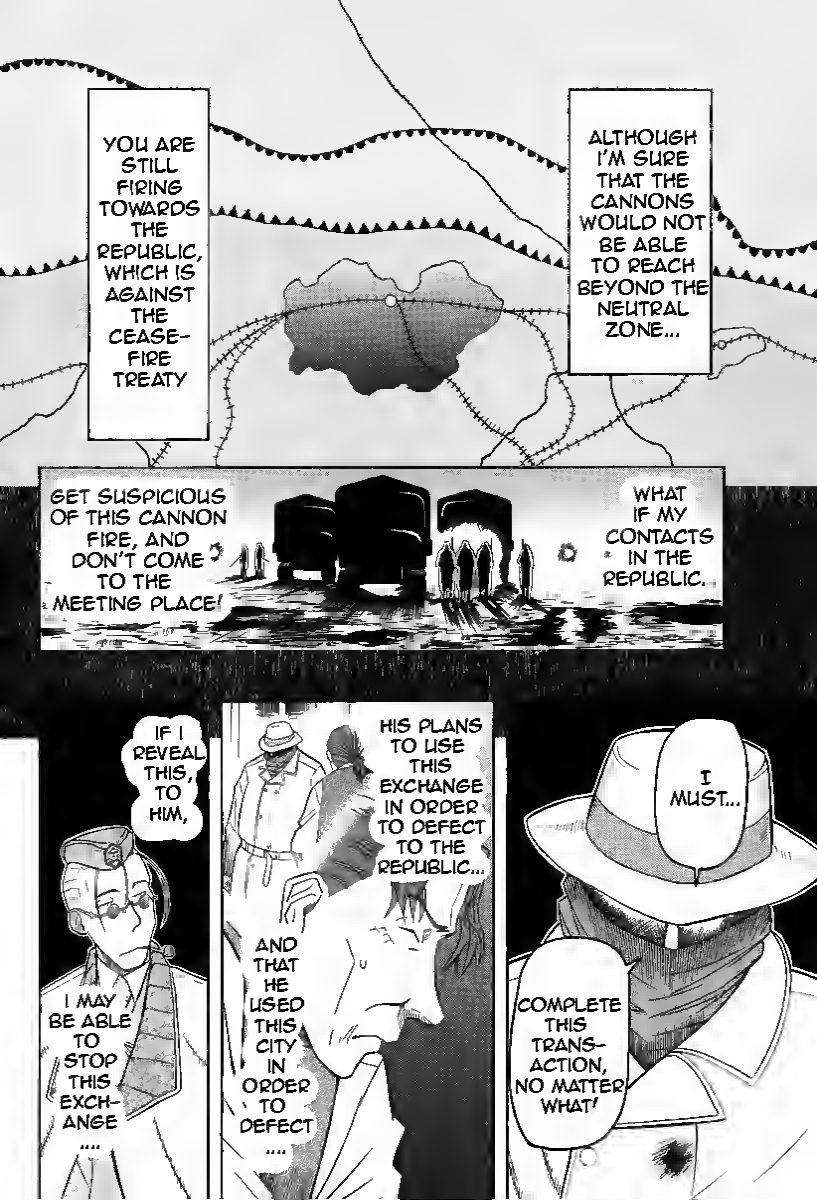
..ABLE TO TEACH HIM WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A NOBLE-MAN...

AHAHAH!



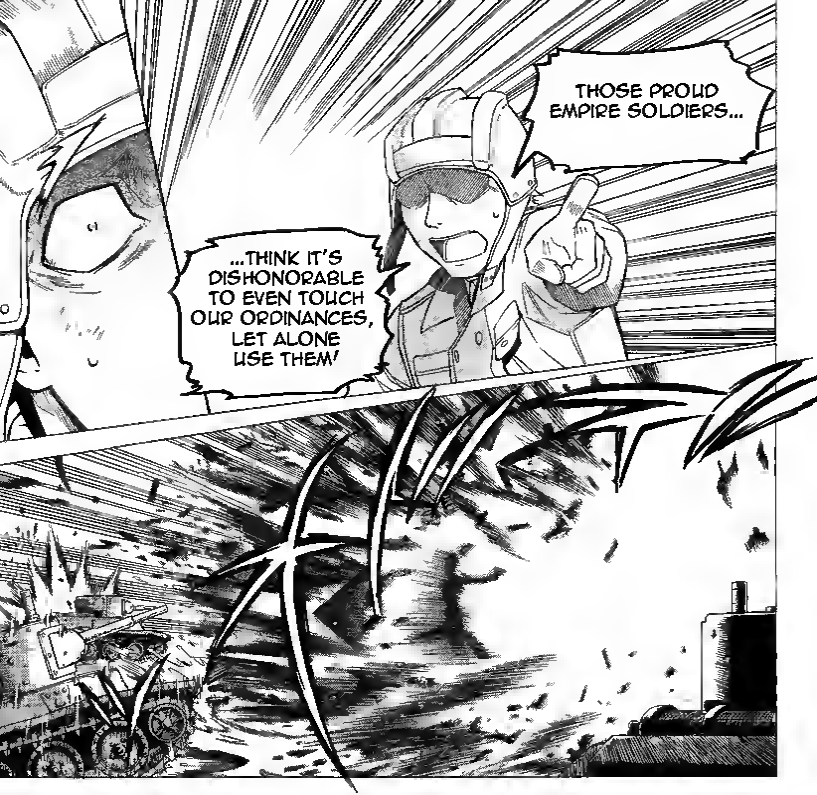


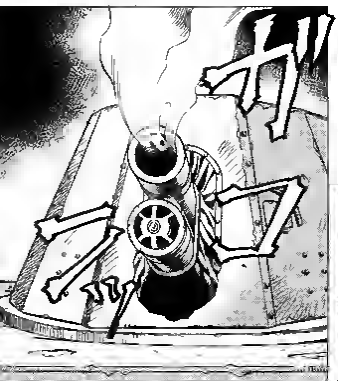
YOU'RE FIRING INTO THE CITY, I SEE
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD BE THIS FOOLISH
THIS IS MY TOWN
I CAN DO WHAT I WANT..
TELL THEM TO STOP FIRING, AT ONCE
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS TOWN
カッ カッ カッ
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY CITIZENS, DIE
HOW-EVER!
THIS CITY STANDS ON THE BORDER


YOU ARE STILL FIRING TOWARDS THE REPUBLIC, WHICH IS AGAINST THE CEASE-FIRE TREATY
ALTHOUGH I'M SURE THAT THE CANNONS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REACH BEYOND THE NEUTRAL ZONE...
GET SUSPICIOUS OF THIS CANNON FIRE, AND DON'T COME TO THE MEETING PLACE!
WHAT IF MY CONTACTS IN THE REPUBLIC.
IF I REVEAL THIS, TO HIM,
I MAY BE ABLE TO STOP THIS EXCH-ANGE ....
HIS PLANS TO USE THIS EXCHANGE IN ORDER TO DEFECT TO THE REPUBLIC...
AND THAT HE USED THIS CITY IN ORDER TO DEFECT ....
I MUST...
COMPLETE THIS TRANS-ACTION, NO MATTER WHAT!

THIS WILL ONLY STOP THE PROBLEM, TEMPORARILY...
NO, I CAN'T!
THE CITY, MILE ....
"IT'S UP TO YOU, TO PROTECT
AND UNTIL THIS CITY CAN TRULY BECOME REFORMED ....!!
I NEED TO WAIT UNTIL THE MILITARY GET'S INVOLVED
LIKE HOW TO TRAFFIC HUMANS...
SINCE YOU'VE TAUGHT ME SO MANY THINGS
OK, I'LL FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS
BUT, THIS SOUND REMINDS ME...
AND THE TORTURE METHODS OF THE REPUBLIC ....

THIS CANNON FIRE, ECHOED THROUGH THE CITY, ON A DAILY BASIS .....
OF THE DAYS, WHEN ....
H, HEY!
THE SELF DESTRUCT FOR THE CANNON
WHO CARES, JUST RUN!
I CAN'T MOVE IN THIS MUD
DAMN


THOSE PROUD EMPIRE SOLDIERS...
...THINK IT'S DISHONORABLE TO EVEN TOUCH OUR ORDINANCES, LET ALONE USE THEM!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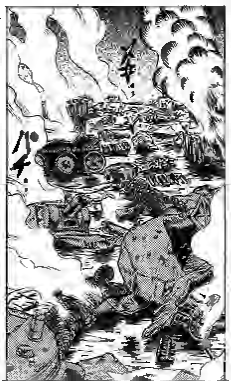
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WE'VE BEEN VICTORIOUS IN ALL OUR BATTLES!!
AS EXPECTED OF THE WEAPONS R&D DEPT.'S ARMORED TRAIN!
HEY... STOP!!
OH?
YOU LET THOSE REPUBLIC GUYS...
HAVE FUN WITH YOU, BEFORE WE CAME HERE AND FREED THIS CITY, RIGHT?
IF YOU STAY FRIENDLY WITH ME
THEN, IF THEY RETAKE THIS CITY, YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL THEM THAT YOU'RE PREGNANT!
YOU'RE ....
TERRIBLE!!

LET GO
LET ME GO!
H, HEY, HELP HER OUT!
WH... WHY ARE YOU TELLING US
YEAH... IF YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HER, THEN...
!
GO HELP HER OUT, YOUR-SELF
HE HE HE
I DON'T THINK THOSE GUYS WILL BE OF MUCH USE!!
THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS WERE USELESS, AND COULON'T SAVE THIS TOWN!
THEY CAN'T EVEN BECOME GUARDS, NOW THAT THIS TOWN IS NO LONGER UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF A NOBLE!
COME ON, HERE
S.. STOP IT!
IT'S THE REPU-BLIC!!
THE REPUBLIC HAS BEGUN ANOTHER ATTACK!!

"PRO-TECT... THIS CITY"
"... PLE-ASE ..."
ASK US FOR OUR HELP
COME ON, CIVILIANS
US "SOLDIERS" WILL PROTECT THIS CITY!
ALRIGHT, I WILL!
...WH...
...CONG-RATULATED US ON CREATING THIS SYMBOL OF IMPERIAL POWER...
THE EMP-EROR ....
WHAT... HAVE YOU DONE TO IT

WHY HAS OUR ARMORED TRAIN...
....BECOME THIS DAMA-GED AND RUINED!!
E EVEN AN ARMORED TRAIN, DOES NOT STAND A CHANCE, IF THEY GET CLOSE ENOUGH...
WHY DID YOU LET THEM GET SO CLOSE!?
THE SWAMP SLOWS THEM DOWN, DOES IT NOT!?
THEY USED... THE LEFT-OVER FRAG-MENTS...
...OF THE TANKS THAT WERE DESTROYED, AS STEPPING STONES...
USING THEIR TANKS AS STEP-PING STONES ...
DAMN LOW LEVEL SCUM
WE HAVE ANOTHER PROBLEM, MR. RESEAR-CHER
HOW ARE WE TO HOLD THE LINE, WITHOUT OUR MAIN CANNON?

CAN WE FIX IT WITH THE MATERIALS THAT ARE LEFT!?
COMMANDER!
..REPORT OUR CURRENT SITU-ATION, WON'T THEY SEND US MORE SUPP-LIES?
IF WE...
AH.. UMM ...
SO OUR SUPP-LIES ARE GONE
WE'VE BEEN IN CONTI-NUOUS FIGHTING .....
IF WE LIE AND SAY THAT IT IS ONLY MINORLY DAMAGE
THEY WILL JUST DELAY THEIR SUPPLY SHIP-MENT...
HOW COULD WE POSSIBLY REPORT TO HQ THAT THE PRIDE OF OUR ARMY, THE ARMORED TRAIN, HAS BECOME THIS SEVERELY DAMAGED BY THE REPUBLIC!!
ARE YOU AN IDIOT!!

SIR
IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE THEM 2 WEEKS TO REGROUP!
WE DID QUITE A BIT OF DAMAGE, SO....
..ATTACK FROM THE REPUBLIC, DUE TO OCCUR?
WHEN IS THE NEXT...
ALRIGHT, GO AND COLLECT THE SCRAPS FROM THE SWAMPS!
WE CAN'T LET THEM USE IT AS A FOOTHOLD, AGAIN!!
WHAT!
FROM LOW LIFES SUCH AS THEM...
I SEE
THERE ISN'T A SINGLE SCREW WE CAN USE....
SHALL WE SALVAGE THEM FOR MATERIALS?
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE TANKS THAT WE PULL UP FROM THE SWAMPS?
MR. WEAPONS RESEARCHER ....
YOU AND I ARE DIFFERENT
C... COMMANDER?
THERE ARE A THOUSAND CANNONS AND AMMO, BURRIED UNDER THAT SWAMP....

BUT WHAT I DON'T LIKE, IS FOR HQ TO "KNOW" THAT I'VE USED THE WEAPONS AND MATERIALS FROM THE REPUBLIC
YOU DON'T LIKE TO "USE" THE WEAPONS AND MATERIALS THAT COME FROM THE REPUBLIC....
I DO NOT LIKE LOSING AGAINST THE REPUBLIC, EITHER
AND AS WITH ALL IMPERIAL SOLDIERS
IN ORDER TO DO THAT...
AND PRO-TECT THE HONOUR OF THE EMPIRE!!
WE MUST DO WHAT-EVER IS NECE-SSARY TO WIN....
CAN WE REALLY AFFORD TO BE KNOWN AS THE UNIT WHO LOST AGAINST THE REPUBLIC IN A RURAL CITY LIKE THIS?

...IN ORDER TO REPLACE THE CANNON THAT WE LOST!!
WE WILL USE THE REPUBLIC'S CANNONS....
IF HQ... IF THE EMPEROR FOUND OUT THAT WE HAD USED REPUBLIC WEAPONS.....
OBJECT!
THIS IS ONLY UNTIL WE GET RESUPPLIED
AS SOON AS THE SUPPLIES ARRIVE, YOU CAN CHANGE IT BACK TO IT'S ORIGINAL APPEARANCE

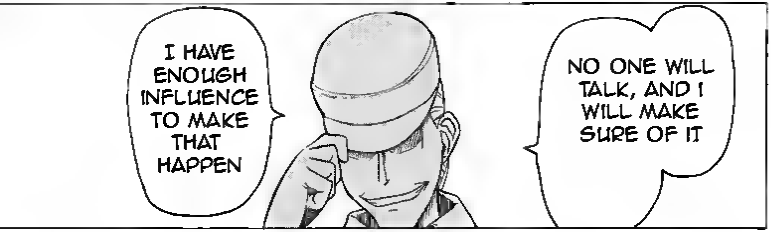
A CEASEFIRE ORDER!?
WHAT!?
WE'VE STRENGTHENED THE CITY, BUT...
RAILROAD SUPPLIES...
WE ONLY RECEIEVED...
.... WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO .....
WE STARTED BUILDING A RAILROAD IN ORDER TO INVADE, BUT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING
THE ENEMIES ADVANCEMENT, WAS DECREASING, SO....

IF WE RETURN TO THE EMPIRE,
HQ WILL... THE EMPEROR WILL...
FIND OUT THAT WE USED A REPUBLIC CANNON!
AND BESIDES, THE PROBLEM HERE IS THAT WE'RE MISSING THE MAIN CANNON THE EMPEROR WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED BY IT, HOW ARE WE GOING TO EXPLAIN WHY IT'S GONE!?
WE'VE ALREADY REPORTED THAT WE HELD THEM OFF, DOZENS OF TIMES
HOW ARE WE GONNA EXPLAIN OUR WINS, WHEN WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A MAIN CANNON!
IDIOT
H, HEY MAYBE IF WE TAKE IT DOWN

AS PER THE TREATY, ALL MILITARY FORCES MUST RETREAT FROM THE BORDER
NO
AND SAY THAT WE NEED TO STAY HERE TO ENSURE THAT THE CITY IS SAFE...?
MAYBE IF WE LEAVE IT HERE....

...THAT THE CITIZENS OF THIS CITY, KNOW ABOUT OUR SECRET
AND OUR NUMBER ONE PROBLEM IS...
ONCE WE HAD THE CORRECT SUPPLIES, WE COULD'VE FIXED IT TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE, AND THEN IT WOULDN'T MATTER WHAT THE CIVILIANS SAY...
SINCE WE WERE IN A HURRY TO FIX IT BEFORE THE NEXT ATTACK, WE USED MECHANICS FROM THE CITY AS WELL....
...SHALL WE SILENCE THEM, PERMA-NENTLY?
BUT, NOW THAT WE CANNOT FIX IT BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE, AS LONG AS THERE ARE CIVILIAN WITNESSES, NOTHING WE DO WILL MATTER
WE WON'T TALK
HOW MANY WOULD THERE BE? IF THE ENGINEERS HAVE ALREADY SPREAD THIS AROUND TOWN, THEN...

DIDN'T WE TELL YOU NOT TO COME TO WORK TODAY!
KICK HIM OUT
HEY!

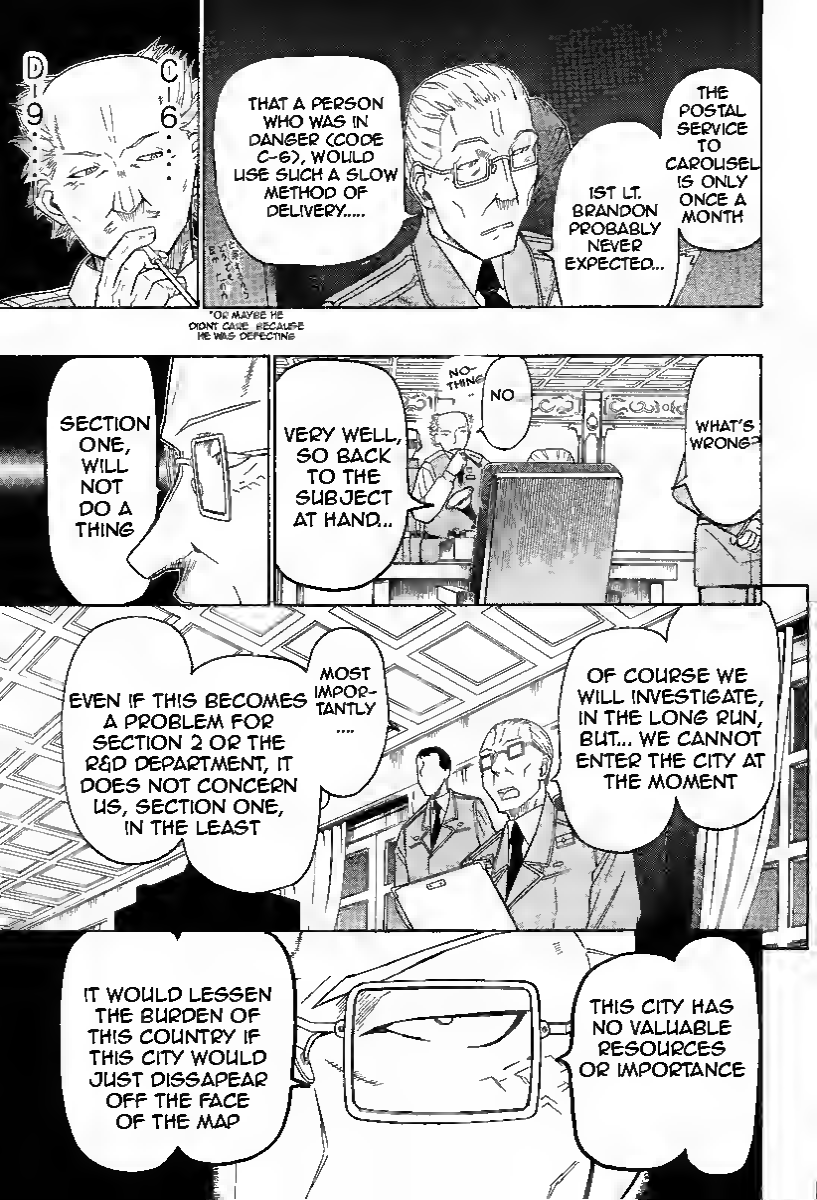

I HAVE ENOUGH INFLUENCE TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN
NO ONE WILL TALK, AND I WILL MAKE SURE OF IT

BUT, IN EXCH-ANGE...
THE ARMORED TRAIN
GIVE ME....

SO, IN OTHER WORDS ...
BOTH SIDES GOT WHAT THEY WANTED
HARVEY WANTED THE ARMORED TRAIN...
..THAT THE MILITARY UNIT, WANTED TO GET RID OF...
AND, THIS RESEARCHER PROBABLY USED HIS CONNECTIONS INSIDE THE R&D DEPT....
AND HAD THE TRAIN MOVED PERMANENTLY TO THE CITY, ALONG WITH SOME HUSH MONEY....
BOTH THE TRANSFER AND THE HUSH MONEY WERE PROBABLY RECORDED...
BUT THE TOP BRASS COULDN'T INVESTIGATE, BECAUSE OF THE COMMOTION FROM THE CEASE-FIRE TREATY
I'M SURPRISED THAT THE COMM-ANDER DID NOT CHOOSE TO SILENCE THEM PERMA-NENTLY

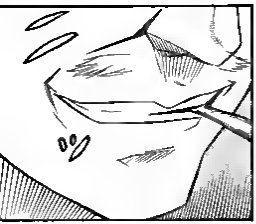
AND, SINCE THE MILITARY ARE NOT ALLOWED INSIDE THE CITY, THE CIVILIAN ENGINEERS MUST BE THE ONES WHO MAINTAIN THE TRAIN.... AND KILLING HARVEY AND THE REST, WILL ONLY CAUSE ANOTHER GROUP OF ENGINEERS TO REPLACE THEM, AND THE SECRET WILL ALWAYS BE OUT
...SINCE IT'S A "CEASEFIRE", THEY DON'T KNOW WHEN THE WAR MIGHT START UP AGAIN, SO THEY MUST CONTINUE MAINTAINING THE TRAIN
AND, THIS SECRET WAS FOUND OUT BY....
YES...
THERE WOULD BE NO END TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO KNEW...
BUT THEN .....
HE BROUGHT ALONG THE IDEA OF HUMAN TRAFF-ICKING...
...TO HARVEY, AND THE CITY, WHICH WAS IN DIRE NEED OF MONEY
1ST LIEUT-ENANT BRANDON WHO ENTERED THE CITY....
IN ORDER TO SPY AGAINST THE REPUBLIC

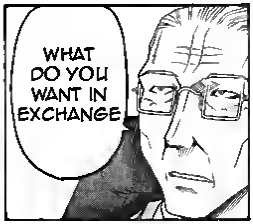
FOUND OUT ABOUT THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING OPERATION
CORPORAL FRANCIA, WHO CAME IN AS AN UNDERLING TO 1ST LIEUTENANT BRANDON....
BETWEEN 1ST LT. BRANDON AND CORPORAL FRANCIA, BUT...
IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE MAYOR DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED...
...HOW-EVER
WAS KILL-ED...
IN THE END, CORP-ORAL FRANCIA ....
SHE HAD SENT OUT A SINGLE PIECE OF LETTER
1ST LT. BRANDON NEVER FOUND OUT THAT BEFORE SHE DIED,

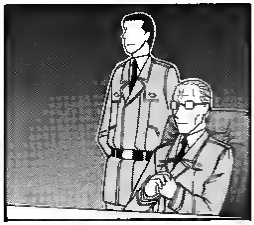

D-9
C-6
THE POSTAL SERVICE TO CAROUSEL IS ONLY ONCE A MONTH
1ST LT. BRANDON PROBABLY NEVER EXPECTED...
THAT A PERSON WHO WAS IN DANGER (CODE C-6), WOULD USE SUCH A SLOW METHOD OF DELIVERY.....
*OR MAYBE HE DIDNT CARE BECAUSE HE WAS DEFECTING
WHAT'S WRONG?
NO
NO-THING
VERY WELL, SO BACK TO THE SUBJECT AT HAND...
SECTION ONE, WILL NOT DO A THING
OF COURSE WE WILL INVESTIGATE, IN THE LONG RUN, BUT... WE CANNOT ENTER THE CITY AT THE MOMENT
MOST IMPOR-TANTLY ....
EVEN IF THIS BECOMES A PROBLEM FOR SECTION 2 OR THE R&D DEPARTMENT, IT DOES NOT CONCERN US, SECTION ONE, IN THE LEAST
THIS CITY HAS NO VALUABLE RESOURCES OR IMPORTANCE
IT WOULD LESSEN THE BURDEN OF THIS COUNTRY IF THIS CITY WOULD JUST DISSAPEAR OFF THE FACE OF THE MAP

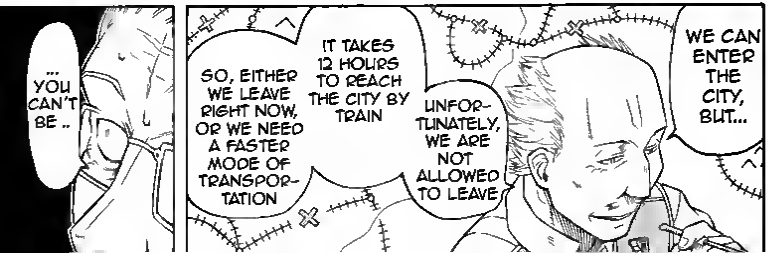
I KNOW THAT YOU WOULD NEVER WASTE YOUR RESOURCES WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS
フ！ｙ…
YEAH, I KNOW
NO MATTER WHICH SECTION OR DEPARTMENT YOU CHOOSE, WE WILL ALWAYS BE IN A POSITION TO TRY AND GET ONE OVER THE OTHER
WHO HAS JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY ON THE GROUND, AND WHO GETS THE MOST BUDGET TO SPEND....
DO YOU WANT IT?
THIS RECORDING WOULD GO A LONG WAY IN HAVING AN ADVANTAGE AGAINST SECTION 2, OR THE RED DEPARTMENT, DON'T YOU THINK?
IT'S A RECORDING THAT HAS LEGAL CONFIR-MATION
HOWEVER, THIS RECORDING WAS DONE WHILE WE WERE UNDER OFFICIAL SUPER-VISION
NORM-ALLY, I WOULD AGREE
RECOR-DINGS ARE NOT RELIABLE EVIDENCE
HOW STUPID.

A KIND OF "FIRST CLASS CONFIRMATION" DESIGNATION... NOT EVEN SECTION 2 OR THE WEAPONS R&D DEPARTMENT CAN GET RID OF IT
THE AUTHENTICITY OF THIS RECORDING WILL BE KEPT IN THE INTELLIGENCE BUREAU'S FILE ROOM FOR ATLEAST 10 YEARS
....IS GAURUNTEED TO HOLD UP AS A BARGAINING CHIP, FOR 10 YEARS
THIS RECORDING...



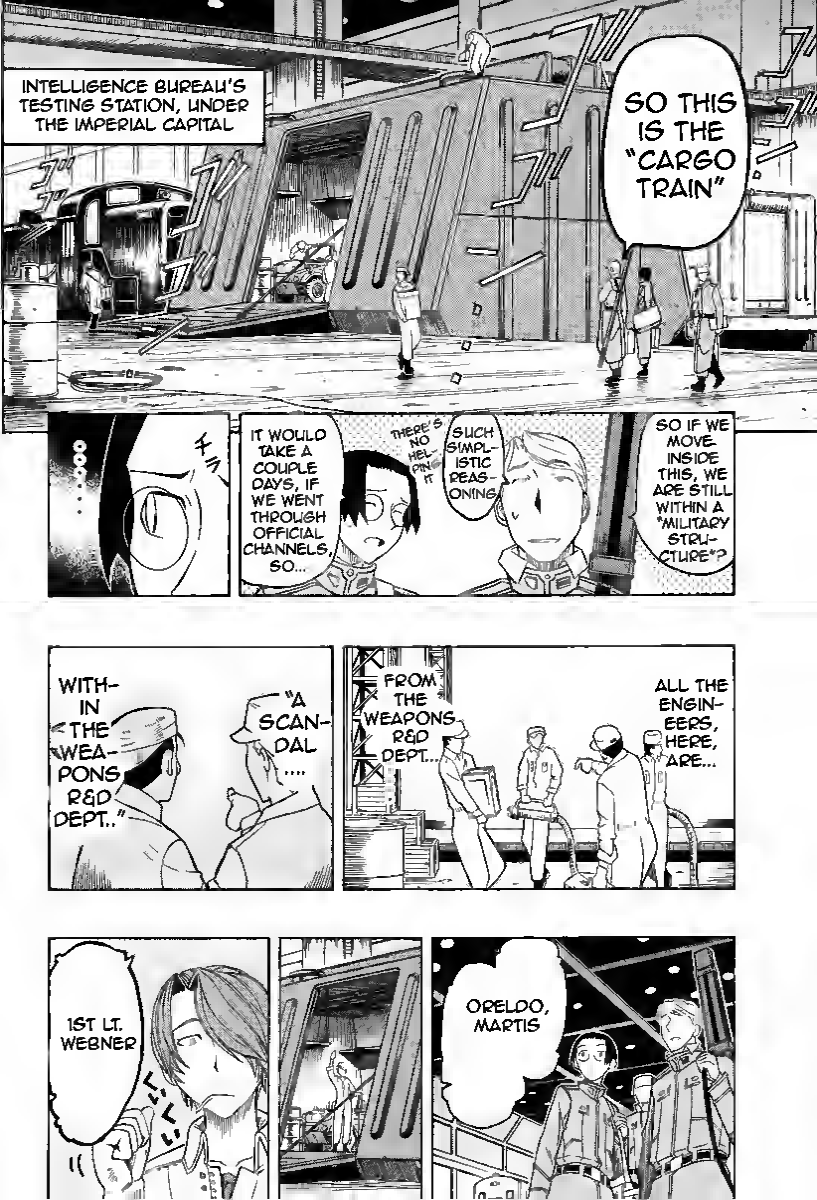

WHAT DO YOU WANT IN EXCHANGE




... YOU CAN'T BE ..
SO, EITHER WE LEAVE RIGHT NOW, OR WE NEED A FASTER MODE OF TRANSPORTATION
IT TAKES 12 HOURS TO REACH THE CITY BY TRAIN
UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE
WE CAN ENTER THE CITY, BUT...

"JUGGERNAUT"
GRANT ME THE USE OF THE...
JUST THE CARGO TRAIN, WILL DO
DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT THE JUGGERNAUT IS!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!
BESIDES, IT ISN'T COMPLETED YET!
ALONG WITH THOSE TWO, IT'S ONE OF THREE CENTRAL PROJECTS THAT THIS SECTION HAS PUT ALL OF IT'S EFFORTS INTO!!
OUR ENCRYPTION SOFTWARE
OUR COMMS LINE

THE JUGGER-NAUT ISN'T JUST A FAST TRAIN!!
IT'S A MOBILE HEADQUARTER, CREATED IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THE COMING GENERATIONS!!
SO THAT WOULD MAKE IT....
YEAH
YOU SAID IT WAS A HQ, RIGHT
...HUH? JUST THE CARGO TRAIN?
A "MILITARY INSTALLATION", RIGHT?
YEAH.... LAST TIME WAS WITH THE DRILLING MACHINE, WASN'T IT?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE WENT UNDER-GROUND


INTELLIGENCE BUREAU'S TESTING STATION, UNDER THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL
SO THIS IS THE "CARGO TRAIN"
SO IF WE MOVE INSIDE THIS, WE ARE STILL WITHIN A "MILITARY STRUCTURE"?
SUCH SIMPLISTIC REASONING.
THERE'S NO HELPING IT
IT WOULD TAKE A COUPLE DAYS, IF WE WENT THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS, SO...
チラ
WITHIN THE WEAPONS R&D DEPT.."
"A SCANDAL ...."
FROM THE WEAPONS R&D DEPT...
ALL THE ENGINEERS, HERE, ARE...
1ST LT. WEBNER
ORELDO, MARTIS

THIS IS A NEW TYPE OF GROUND VEHICLE, SO LISTEN UP! ESPECIALLY YOU, ORELDO
THE MARK 5, IS DIFFERENT FROM THE MARK 4 THAT YOU'RE USED TO
YOU'RE GOING TO CAROUSEL, RIGHT?
I'VE CUST-OMIZED THE MARK 1 AS WELL, SO THAT YOU CAN USE IT OVER WET TERRAIN
1ST LT.!
I AM RECORDING THIS CONVER-SATION, SO PLEASE DO NOT SAY ANY-THING CLASS-IFIED...
HMM.
ETSUO! EXPLAIN HOW THE MARK 5 WORKS TO ORELDO
GIVE HIM THE JIST OF IT, WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING SPECIFIC ABOUT THE SPECS
THE JIST OF IT!?

WHEN YOU STEP ON THE ACCELERATION PEDAL, IT'LL GO VROOM, SO BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR CLUTCH! ALSO, THE ENGINE'S STRENGTH IS LIKE KABOOM, SO BECAREFUL
HELP ME
OH!
THE ROTATION IS LIKE A BIRD ON A WET...
YOU NEED A WRENCH?
LT. WEBNER!?
HUH!? WAI....

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY
SO LET'S TALK PRIVATELY, HERE, OKAY?
THIS INCIDENT... THE WEAPONS R&D DEPT. IS INVOLVED...
I'M WORRIED IT MIGHT AFFECT YOU GUYS, IN A BAD WAY....
IF THERE ARE MAGGOTS WITHIN THE R&D DEPT., I'D RATHER THEY BE EXPOSED SO WE CAN GET RID OF THEM
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU GUYS, IN SECTION 3
AND WHETHER THE R&D DEPT. WON'T RETALIATE AGAINST YOU

THAT'S HOW INEXPLICABLY HIGH, THE PRIDE OF THE R&D DEPARTMENT, IS... I'M WORRIED THAT THEY MIGHT TRY AND RETALIATE AGAINST YOUR SECIONT....
"IF THE REPUBLIC HAD INVENTED BOLTS THAT SCREWED IN CLOCKWISE, THE EMPIRE WOULD HAVE MADE THEIR BOLTS SCREW IN COUNTER-CLOCK WISE*
THERE IS ONE PER-SON..
IN YOUR UNIT, WITH A SECRET, NO?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE ANY SECRETS THAT CAN BE USED AGAINST US...
BUT, EVEN SO...
*ALSO, BE CAREFUL WITH THAT CIGARETTE OF YOURS
!
THE COR-PO-RAL .....

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY, BEING UP LIKE THIS?
YOUR FACE IS PALE
SO...
THE GIRL I WAS WITH...
YEAH ....
SHE WAS TAKEN BY THE GUARDS WHO CAME TO CHECK UP ON THE PLACE
I WAS SCARED AND COULD NOT HELP HER, BUT...
HM?
I DID HELP YOU, SO PLEASE DON'T JUDGE ME TOO HARSHLY

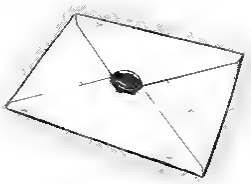
THA-NKS
HUH? YOU'RE GIVING ME HALF?
OH, CANNED MEAT... HOW NICE
MEAT
BLOOD ....
I NEED MORE ...
ハヂュイキュイキュイ
AH, ARE YOU OKAY !?

2ND LIEU-TEN-ANT .....
THE EXCHANGE WILL OCCUR PAST MIDNIGHT
WE NEED TO CONTACT HQ BEFORE THEN ..
IT WON'T MATTER
THE MILITARY CANNOT ENTER THIS CITY
NOT UNLESS SOMEONE WITH A MILITARY BACKGROUND LIKE YOU OR ME, GETS KILLED
THAT'S WHY BRANDON WAS CAREFUL NOT TO GO TOO FAR
IF I HAD REPORTED TO HQ, THAT I HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY SOMEONE WHO HAD A REVOLVER...
HQ WOULD HAVE PULLED ME OUT, NOW THAT MY FACE WAS KNOWN TO THE ASSAI-LANT

IT LOOKS LIKE HIS PLAN DIDN'T WORK.....
ALTHOUGH THANKS TO THAT GUARD CAPTAIN....
...WOULD BE A LOT MORE "UNDERSTANDING" THAN I WAS....
AND THEN, HE PROBABLY HOPED THAT THE NEXT INVESTIGATOR THAT CAME
WE CANNOT MANAGE TO ESCAPE FROM AN ENTIRE TOWN... WE WON'T MAKE IT
ALTHOUGH WE WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE, JUST NOW
BUT... I SUPPOSE THE RESULT IS THE SAME
THERE IS SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU
"COLD" WITTER...
IS IT ABOUT HOW A SOLDIER WHO IS ABOUT TO DIE, WOULD PREPARE HIMSELF?
NO
WHAT IS IT?

I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT LOVE
WHAT?
THERE IS ONE THING,, THAT I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
I KNOW WHY CORPORAL FRANCIA SENT OUT HER LETTER USING REGULAR POSTAGE
SINCE SHE CAN'T USE THE LAND LINES AND SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO GO BEHIND LT. BRANDON'S BACK
BUT...

"HUMAN TRAFFICKING TO AN ENEMY STATE", "INTELLIGENCE LEAKS IN ORDER TO DEFECT", BOTH ARE "TREASONOUS ACTIONS"(CODE D-9)



WHY DIDN'T SHE USE THE CODEWORD "D-9"?

OPEN THE GATE!

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WAS NOT WRITTEN WITH ENCRYPTION IN MIND

THAT LETTER....

.....

JUGGERNAUT (CARGO TRAIN), LAUNCH!!

IT WAS WRITTEN IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE HER LOVE

#29/END

AIZEN HERE

SO, HERE IT IS, PUMPKIN SCISSORS.

BEEN WANTING TO WORK ON THIS FOR A WHILE, EVEN GOING AS FAR AS APPLYING FOR KUNDERE SCANS AND JOINING UP WITH ANOTHER TO RELEASE A CHAPTER.

ENJOY :)

Interval
停戦が来て……
やっと
共和国兵も
帝国兵も
いなくなったのに
あの音を
聞かされる
度に――
気持ちが
ヘシ折られて
しまう……!!
ゴトン
ゴトン
ゴトン
ゴトン
ゴトン
ゴトン
See You Next Time!

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パンプキン・シザーズ
Pumpkin Scissors⑧

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